

Hertz
Take A Break From Your Work Load and Take Hertz Along with you.....
Universal Rent a Car
Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625
Movenpick Branch (01) 546063

YEMEN TIMES

DHL EXPRESS
we move the world
Sana'a: Hadda St. (01) 441099/87/6, Zubairi St. 249878
Aden: (02) 24627/8, Fax: (04) 252455
Hodeidah: (03) 286689, Mukalla: (05) 354844
Seiyun: (05) 404288, Ibb: (04) 407418

Monday, 3 March 2008 • Issue No. 1134 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

Inside:  **5** Village children are back in school because of water wells  **7** Yemeni children's future goes up in (tobacco) smoke  **14** Despite threats, I insisted to visit Yemen

Peasants plight ongoing despite protest

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For the Yemen Times

IBB, March 2 — The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as "HOOD", is planning a sit-in on Monday in front of the Ministry of Local Administration to demonstrate solidarity with the Ja'ashin citizens of Ibb governorate, who HOOD claims suffer from cruel practices by powerful sheikh Mohammed Ahmad Mansour.

Khalid Al-Anisi, a lawyer, human rights activist and Executive Director of the organization, said the protestors would send a letter to Parliament explaining Parliament members (MPs) how they are continuously mistreated by the powerful sheikh and his followers.

Al-Anisi claimed the government should establish police stations throughout the plagued district and prevent Mansour from treating the area's citizens according to his famous saying: "I am the government... I am the state."

According to the human rights activist, the imprisonment of citizens by the influential sheikh in private jails is a banned crime in accordance with constitutional article 48. He continued that the constitution also prohibits zakat (alms voluntarily given to the poor according to Islamic law) collection by any person or agency, adding that the government has competent agencies and workers who are tasked to collect zakat.

Lawyer Abdul-Rahman Barman, one of the organization's staff members, accused Mansour of committing constitutional crimes, asking Parliament to immediately investigate him, indicating that among the crimes practiced by Al-Jaashin Sheikh are imprisoning citizens in private jails, levying taxes on locals, banning their movements and confiscating their lands and livestock.

He revealed that his organization is holding the Ibb local authorities accountable for the consequences of Mansour's inhuman behavior, pointing out that these authorities failed to provide adequate protection to a previous committee formed by Parliament to examine the situation and resolve the issue.

Al-Sahwa.net reported that dozens of Ja'ashin citizens started a series of sit-ins and protests last week, which were held in front of Yemeni Parliament on Wednesday. The locals protested against what they described as "constitutional violations" committed by the oppressive sheikh, who is also a member of the Shura Council, against them.

The protestors raised slogans demanding that Parliament intervene to end their constant suffering and put a stop to the illegal practices the influential sheikh practices against them. According to the Ja'ashin locals, Mansour forces them to pay money to him under the guise of zakat, and if they refuse to pay the money, he then throws them in his private jails.

The most recent sit-in led to forming a parliamentary committee on Wednesday in charge of discussing complaints raised by Ja'ashin locals, who evacuated their homes and came to protest in Sana'a, and examining their situation.

"Despite informing public prosecution on Tuesday about the arbitrary practices we are suffering and the looting exercised by the tyrannous sheikh in the Ja'ashin area, with a population estimated at tens of thousands, neither it nor other relevant government agencies could stop his campaign of confiscating citizens' cows, sheep and other property," one protestor at Parliament said on condition of anonymity. "Even women and children were subjected to attacks and beatings by the sheikh's followers, who did so with the intention of forcing



Residents of Al-Ja'ashin protest in front of the Parliament demanding equal citizenship. Over 90 poor families have evacuated their homes because of the ill treatment of a local powerful sheikh, whom they used to work for.

dozens of citizens, holding a sit-in in front of the governorate's premises, to return home and quit protesting against the tribal sheikh. The oppressive man also takes any citizens returning from protests to his private jail."

According to the protestor, many Ja'ashin citizens found themselves obliged to abandon their homes, and women and children under the sheikh's control, and move to Sana'a to inform Parliament of their sufferings. They decided to travel to Sana'a after seeing that the Ibb local authorities failed to help liberate them from ten years of oppression by the influential sheikh.

"The sheikh is supposed to act as the custodian of the law and is not an ordinary person unaware of the law, as he is an advisor to the president.

However, the irony is that he is the predator in these crimes," local media quoted Yemeni columnist Mohammad al-Qadhi as saying. "I wonder where the Interior minister and his long list of "great achievements" stand here."

"Can the Interior Minister show us how he will produce a real achievement by protecting these helpless citizens? Can the president and Interior minister hold the man accountable for violating law and order? Can they bridle the tyranny of this influential sheikh and others like this man?" Al-Qadhi added.

Parliament formed a committee on Wednesday to investigate Al-Jaashin citizens' grievances and complaints against the sheikh. The committee, however, could not do anything against the influential tribal leader. Last month, Mansour arrested two

teachers while on duty at their school and put them in his private prison after they refused to give him the deeds to their lands. In late February, about 70

families were forced by Mansour to flee their homes because they refused to pay him an annual collective zakat amount of three million riyals (\$15,000). They said they had already paid zakat to the local authority. The villagers were forced to camp in a nearby deserted area with few provisions for seven days.

The sheikh is the same man who put a parliamentary candidate from the socialist party in jail simply because he decided to run against his son. He wanted all the Ja'ashin citizens to vote for only one candidate, his son.

A year ago, the Ja'ashin citizens dispatched a letter to Ibb's governor, demanding that he put an end to infringements practiced against them by the oppressive sheikh. The letter read that Mansour blocked drinking water pipes from their village and demanded the governor to immediately end the trouble and bear the responsibility for protecting their lives.

The citizens said in a call to the Yemeni media that they want Yemen's government to resolve their problem, end the ongoing violations in their area, change local officials, and prevent the sheikh from intervening in their affairs, public services and retirement funds.

Want service and value?
Budget
Car Rental
National and International Reservations
Reservation Tel. 309618 - 506372, Reservation Fax. 240958, Hadda, Reservation Tel. 411727
24 hours (Hot Line) 733652317

الوطنية للتأمين
AL-WATANIA INSURANCE
www.alwataniansurance.com
Sana'a, Tel: (01)272713, 272874, Fax: (01)272924, G.M. (01)276745
Hodeidah: (03)21994144, Fax: (03)219945

المستشفى الحديث
Al-Hadi Modern Hospital
بالمعلم والقديم... نرضى مرضانا
صنعاء - فرع عطان - ت. ٤٤٤٤٤٤ - ف. ٤٤٤٤٤٤
Email: info@hadithalahl.com
www.hadithalahl.com

AL-JEEL AL-AJADEED GROUP
A world of Books & Stationery
الجديد من كاسيو
CASIO
لحل كل المسائل الجبرية والبيانية
وكلاء معتمدين ORIGINAL
www.aljeel-alajadeed.com ٢١٣١١٤ ت: ٢١٣١١٤ ف: ٢١٣١١٣

Qarnaw
For Oilfield Services
قرنأو
QARNAW
(A Member of Al-Shaif Int'l Group)
Qarnaw focuses on delivering the best solutions and multi-services to our clients.
Tel: 01 448447/8, Fax: 01 448446, 3rd Floor, Sana'a Trade Center, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
E-M: godwin@qarnaw.com W: www.shaifgroup.com

ROYAL
لبنة والجمال...
شركة أرتيكس التجارية المحدودة
www.artex.net.ye
٥٩٢٣٥١٢

KONICA MINOLTA كونيكا مينولتا
Choose your best MFP Products Lineup
Thabet Son Corporation مؤسسة بن ثابت التجارية
Sana'a: Tel.-278546-8 Fax.-283596, Tais: Tel.-219057 Fax.-214306, Aden: Tel.-244625 Fax.-246787, Hodeidah: Tel.-204483 Fax.-204490, Mukalla: Tel.-316710 Fax.-316711
E-mail: tsc@yemen.net.ye, Website: www.thabetson.com.ye

imagine sharpness better than real
SAMSUNG
SAM Digital
IT-Telecom & AV
Tel.: +967 1 494700 - 494999

شركة صناعات وخدمات يمنية للتأمين
SABA YEMEN INSURANCE CO. (S.Y.C.)
ثقة - حماية - بلا نهاية..
Head Office
47 Alzubairi St.- Ishaq Bldg.
-Sana'a
P.O.Box: 19214
Tel: (+967-1) 420908-240984
506115-506118
Fax: +967-1)240943

شركة صناعات وخدمات يمنية للتأمين
SABA YEMEN INSURANCE CO. (S.Y.C.)
ثقة - حماية - بلا نهاية..
Head Office
47 Alzubairi St.- Ishaq Bldg.
-Sana'a
P.O.Box: 19214
Tel: (+967-1) 420908-240984
506115-506118
Fax: +967-1)240943

Yemen Commercial Bank **YCB** البنك التجاري اليمني
Child's Treasure Program
for better future
Toll free 8008000
Phone 01-299988
www.ycb.com.ye

In brief

SANA'A

Youth local council elections

Twenty-eight candidates won in the local council elections for youth organized by the Democratic School in Sana'a. Twenty thousand students participated in the elections from around the governorate including children with disabilities. The total number of candidates was 485 who competed of which are 250 females competing for the local council seats.

Young politicians or ganization launched

Coming Wednesday elections to choose the president of a new non-governmental organization will be carried out where 21 founding members will compete for the leadership position of the Young politicians organization. This is an organization for university students to allow them to express their political opinions in a democratic way and empowers their skills. Once the president is elected students are encouraged to enroll.

TAIZ

Open days for child drawings

On March 18, an open day for children's drawings will be held for one week in Taiz. The week which is organized by the Turkish International School in cooperation with Saeed Foundation for culture and science. The event will target kids between 4 and five years old where they express their ideas and feeling through drawings. The organizers hope to create a permanent workshop for children's drawings in Taiz schools.

ADEN

New city map for Aden

The executive office of Aden's governorate has approved the final map of the city restructuring project. The city will have a new face with modern infrastructure while maintaining the traditional identity of Aden.

Costa Europe arrives in Aden

The Italian tourist Ship "Costa Europe" arrived here on Saturday carrying 1,434 tourists from different European nationalities. A number of tourism programs have been prepared for the tourists to get acquainted with the archeological sites and traditional markets in Aden.

A source said to Saba that a tourist group consist of 326 persons headed for Taiz and Jiblah cities.

Worth mentioning, the tourist Ship "Costa Europe" came to Aden from the Omani port Salalah and it visits Aden for the second time in two years.

SANA'A

PM hails PERGA's roles in preserving Red sea environment

Prime Minister Ali Mujawar hailed on Saturday the role of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERGA) in mobilizing efforts of concerned Arab states to implement programs protecting the environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Mujawar was briefed during his meeting with the secretary general of the organization Ziad Abu-Ghararah on the technical activities, environmental programs and legal actions have been achieved to preserve the marine environment in the areas of Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Abu-Ghararah told Mujawar that the international navigation line in the south red sea has been identified and approved by the World Environment Organization, highlighting the important role of Yemen in the organization activities.

Mujawar confirmed the importance of broadening the organization's activities to cover the Arab sea that would reinforce the regional cooperation in field of conservation of the environment of the red sea and Gulf of Aden.

Parliament demands closure of MP's paper

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, March 2 — For the first time in Yemeni Parliament's history, 52 Parliament members demanded that Al-Mustaqilla Newspaper, belonging to independent Parliament member (MP) Ahmad Saif Hashid, be shut down, adding that Hashid is no longer eligible for Parliament membership.

The MPs filed a complaint to the Attorney General against their colleague, accusing him of violating national principles and Islamic *sharia* in the various articles published by his newspaper.

"So far the Attorney General's office did not receive any files from the parliament regarding the accusation" said Jmil Al-Maqtri, official in the Attorney General's office. "however if we receive these files with the evidence that this newspaper has breached Islamic principles, we will send the case to the press and publication prosecution to take its meas-

ures," he added.

Reacting to the charges, Hashid, said that the government was upset by the way he opposes its policies and the issues undertaken by his newspaper, pointing out that the government wants him to remain silent and stop opposing its policies. According to the independent MP, the government demanded that his newspaper cease discussing any human rights issues or criticizing its agencies.

"The government is planning to get rid of me or throw me in jail in order not to be reelected in the coming parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2009. It is the government that directed ill-spirited people to launch a campaign against me, calling me a 'disbeliever' and harming my reputation," Hashid continued.

The Mustaqilla editor-in-chief added that Salafi jihadists belonging to the Islah Party, who have close relations with the state's security agencies, are responsible for targeting his newspaper over publishing a conversation with an individual, who con-



Ahmed Hashid

cluded by saying "My God oppressed me."

According to the MP, he has not yet appointed any lawyer to defend him in court; however, some civil community organizations selected four defense

advocates who voluntarily chose to defend him. "I received nothing except for moral support from some local NGOs and the International Union of Parliamentarians (IUP), which is still investigating the series of attacks by government agents against me," Hashid went on to say. "The IUP has presented eight recommendations to Yemeni Parliament in this regard and asked it to provide the IUP with any information about the attacks so far launched against me and my newspaper."

Hashid clarified that he urged the IUP to take quick action for saving his life since he often faces threats and assaults by security agents, complaining that the Jihadist wing in the Islah party instigates other people to kill him. He sent out various letters to some local and international NGOs, demanding that they press the Yemeni government to stop harassing him, adding that his life is at risk.

MP Saleh Al-Sanabani, one of those who signed a document defaming Hashid, denied that he and other MPs

called Hashid a 'disbeliever' adding that Hashid is exploiting the issue to make himself out to be a hero in the media community.

"In every issue of his newspaper, Hashid usually shocks us by publishing articles contradicting Islamic values. The majority of MPs demanded that his newspaper cease publishing such articles, but the man exploited the issue to claim that we call him a 'disbeliever'; however, such did not happen," Al-Sanabani said. "It is Hashid who called us 'disbelievers'. We tried to contact the Attorney General to learn about the case-related procedures, but he responded that he knows nothing about the issue."

Fuad Dihaba, another MP from the Islah Party, mentioned that some Parliament members intervened to resolve the issue via dialogue, pointing out that up until now, Parliament has not revoked any member's immunity. "Parliament only froze the immunity of Yahya Al-Houthi over the Sa'ada rebellion, according to the government's demand," Dihaba said.

Discriminative legislation hinders women's political participation

By: Rasha Jarhum
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, March 1 — The Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF) organized the fourth Democratic Forum on Thursday. In line with a series of forums that SAF has organized to improve political participation of women, the forum discussed the legislative challenges that hinder women's political participation, as an effort to lobby Parliament and mobilize the media and civil society to approve the 15 percent quota for women's representation in political parties that was approved last week by the Ministerial Council.

Chairing the forum was Maha Awadh, Program Coordinator of the Women's National Committee, Parliament member Abdulbary Dughais, and journalist Muna Safwan. More than 60 participants representing the media, different NGOs and CSOs attended.

Awadh presented a paper on the legislative challenges and the proposed amendments to enhance women's political participation. She explained that there is a reflective mutual relation between social, cultural, economical and political institutions and structures, as well as society's perception towards women, with the legislative laws. She further illustrated that the absence of women participation in writing legislation, and their exclusion in laws, which refer only to men, make them servants to the vision and interest of men.



Women's movement will not rest until Yemeni women have at least 15 percent quota in political parties and decision making positions.

Awadh further explained that the structure of legislature, even with its variations to consider women's interests, in fact reflects the equality of duties and responsibilities, starting at the constitution in addressing citizens, both men and women, as article 41 reads, "All citizens are equal in general duties and responsibilities."

She also indicated that the constitution also refers to partnership participation in organizing the rights and duties for men and women; however, the reference to the organization of women's rights and duties is, as stated in the constitution, based on *sharia*, or Islamic law. She expressed her confidence in *sharia*, and elaborated that it has given women a high status and

ensured her full human rights. However, she questioned whether human factors were considered in the legislative efforts or whether it was subject to the influence of Yemen's inherited customs and traditions to overcome the Islamic legislation that supports women.

Moreover, Awadh noted that there is another discourse to the principle of equality in rights and duties which was used in the constitution and created an obstacle for its disclosure. She claimed that this is evident in Article 107, which addresses men only, stating "...not married to a foreigner (female wife) and shall not get married while serving in his presidency term from a foreigner (female wife)", indicating

that there is a specific limit/glass ceiling to women's political rights.

She elaborated that Article 61 of the Civil Law enhances the stereotypes of gender roles when it states "...the girl should look after domestic responsibilities." Additionally, Article 42 of 1994 Ministerial Decree 12, on crime and punishment, sets the penalty for accidentally killing a woman at half that of killing a man, revealing a gender gap and unequal citizenship between men and women. Furthermore, Article 3 of Law 6 in 1990, regarding nationality, indicating that Yemeni nationality will be granted to someone whose "father" is Yemeni. Awadh claimed that such discriminative law statements enhance discrimination against women and establish more obstacles that impact their status in society.

Referring to the laws that directly hinder women's political participation, Awadh explained that Article 7 of the General Elections Law is one of the most important articles empowering women's political participation as voters; however, a similar article to enhance women's political participation as candidates does not exist. Additionally, she pointed to Article 58 of the Political Parties and Institutions Law, which obligates potential candidates to be approved by a party chairperson or high official, has a negative impact on women's candidacies, as the social environment does not allow an equal opportunity for competition and hence women are considered as a losing card, discouraging political parties

or institutions to put forward female nominations. Awadh further emphasized that the electoral system, based on the individual constituency, does not serve both men and women.

Additionally, Dughais presented a paper on Parliament's role to approve and enforce law amendments relevant to women. He presented the implementation model of the Safe Motherhood Law, acknowledging the huge and honest role of the governmental mechanism to women's development - the Woman National Committee - and the advocacy of women's rights in the Legislative Council.

The forum concluded with a set of important recommendations, including intensifying pressure mechanisms to lobby for the legislative amendments, continuing the dialogue to approve a 15% quota for women in political parties, and supporting and coordinating partnership efforts between all the supporting women mechanisms to promote female candidacy and increase the number of women in decision-making positions. Additionally, recommendations were made to encourage the role of women's organizations in providing capacity building to women in political work, raising awareness of a woman's role and status in society to change behaviors and practices that reflect inferiority, raising awareness among women on their legislative rights and how to obtain legal protection, and involving women and women's organizations when writing and discussing parliamentary laws.

Yemeni acquitted of arms smuggling

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, March 2 — Two men, Abdi Othman Soli, 28, a Danish citizen of Somali origin, and Abdullah Awadh Al-Masri, 37, a Yemeni national, were found not guilty this week of smuggling weapons to Somalia in 2006. However, the court gave Al-Masri a three-year prison sentence for other charges such as working with and providing shelter for Al-Qaeda operatives and illegal weapons trading.

Among other accusations, the two suspects were tried for smuggling anti-aircraft weapons and sniper rifles into Somalia for the Islamic Court, which was waging a coup at the time. Although Soli confessed to the charges, the court ignored his confession, according to the office of the Attorney General.

Besides Soli and Al-Masri, 12 other men, including four Yemenis and eight Western nationals, were arrested at the same time.

At the time of their arrest, Rashad Al-Alimi, Yemen's Interior Minister, refused to transfer the men to the Guantanamo Bay prison facility and insisted on keeping the suspects in Yemen for trial.

Since the arrest, a German national was released in November 2007 after Yemeni interrogators said he had not been involved in any illegal activities. The other suspects, including three Australians, one British national, one Danish national and one Somali national, stayed in Yemen until they were extradited to their respective countries.

The Australian press reported that eight of the suspects have confessed to involvement in weapons smuggling operations to Somalia and to collecting funds intended to help carry out terrorist attacks.

The three Australians are Abdullah Ayub, 19, Mohammed Ayub, 21, and Marek Samulski, 35. The Ayub brothers are sons of jihadist Abdul Rahim Ayub, an alleged member of a Sydney-based terrorist cell who was arrested last year in Australia.

The Dane is a convert to Islam and had been studying at the Islamic Iman University, which is run by Sheikh Abdul-Majid Al-Zandani. The university denied that any of the suspects were Al-Iman students. The Australian press reported that authorities searched the Danish man's house and discovered Al-Qaeda-linked documents and thousands of dollars and Euros.

In 2006, a Danish Foreign Ministry official confirmed the arrest of a Danish national in conjunction with this investigation, but refused to identify him. The Danish media reported that the suspect is a 23-year-old man who converted to Islam and moved to Yemen two years ago with his wife and child.

Press reports also mentioned that another of the arrested men, Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Sinhi (sometimes known as Abu Dujana Al-Misiki), admitted that he'd been assigned to carry out a terrorist attack using an explosives-laden car at Sana'a International Airport.

Because of Yemen's close proximity and plethora of available weaponry,

Yemen became a hub for illegal weapon sales to Somalia through smugglers and radicals.

Somali websites posted stories around the time of the arrests that Yemen sent "military supplies, including sophisticated tanks" and assorted heavy and light artillery to the Baidoa airport.

In 2006, a source from inside the Yemeni government said that Yemen did not send weapons of any kind to Somalia. The source, who wished to remain anonymous, denied the validity of the Somali reports circulating on a few ads, calling them "groundless."

The source pointed out that Yemen has been in constant contact with both factions—the interim Somali government based in Baidoa, and the leaders of Somalia's Islamic Courts Union, which currently controls Mogadishu—to persuade them to negotiate.

This is not the first time that Yemen has been blamed for providing Somalia with weapons. In October 2005, Somali factions accused Yemen, Ethiopia and Eritrea of smuggling weapons to the former Islamic government in Somalia.

Yemen said at the time that it sold weapons—legally—to the then-recognized Somali government. Yemen denied that there had been any illegal weapons smuggling to Somalia, and that it had provided 5,000 pieces of small arms to the interim government.

Judge Mohammed Al-Hakimi oversaw the case, which appeared in the appellate court of first instance in Sana'a.

Detainees of Sa'ada turmoil released

SA'ADA, March 2 — Abdu Mohammad Al-Jundi, rapporteur for the mediation committee responsible for supervising implementation of the peace agreement in Sa'ada governorate, assured that during the last few days the committee has released 347 people who were detained because of the war between the government and Houthists. He also confirmed that the rest will be released in the coming days.

Ali Al-Dailami, executive manager of the Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Liberties, confirmed their release, saying that it took place gradually after the Qatar Agreement.

According to Sa'ada sources, the mediation committee managed to convince both sides of its vision, aimed at implementing terms of the Doha-brokered peace deal, signed by both sides on Feb. 1, 2008.

The deal stipulates that the government must pull out its troops from the populated areas and Houthists must abandon their positions on mountains and return home, according to the official sources, who also pointed out that the army has taken a positive step toward ending the tension between both conflicting sides and ensuring that they remain committed to the

agreement.

The committee has started its work with participation from the Yemeni and Qatari Red Crescent Committee (YQRC) and district directors by preparing its work plan for the next phase.

Al-Jundi, also the speaker of the Ministry of Defense, stated on 26 September website that a subsidiary committee of the Presidency Committee on Friday started visiting Sahar, Haidan, Majz and other districts to assess damages and determine those who deserve compensation so that the YQRC would be able to compensate them. A second committee was formed to control violations and enforce state laws in all districts with a precise schedule that includes the Houthists' coming down from mountains and going home, living as Yemeni citizens and having all rights and privileges and their children going back to schools.

Al-Jundi also said that there is a third committee that receives lists with names of missing and detained people in order to release them, while another one receives lists of weapons available with the Houthists, expecting all this work to finish next week and for state laws to be implemented in all Sa'ada districts.

WHAT IT MEANS...

Playing the tribal card in Yemen's political arena

By: Khaled Fattah
Doctoral candidate
University of St. Andrews, U.K.

As the Middle East's most enduring social entity, the tribe has played a significant role in shaping not only the Arab Middle East's history and culture, but also the process of state formation and maintenance.

For this reason, the study of tribe and tribalism has attracted historians, anthropologists and political scientists alike. While anthropologists have invested their academic energies in conducting anthropological micro-studies of specific communities, historians have favored studying particular historical case studies, mostly related to tribes within Islamic Empires.

Political scientists, on the other hand, have shown their interest in investigating the tribe's role in shaping and reshaping the region's mode of governance and state-society relations.

For various reasons, there's scarcely a more appropriate part of the Arab Middle East where researchers may study the tribe's influence in shaping today's sociopolitical life in the region than the Republic of Yemen.

In this economically underdeveloped and sole republic amid a neighborhood of wealthy sheikhdoms, the tribe isn't just an ancient social unit of solidarity; rather, above all, it is a powerful political institution capable of pulling the rug out from under a government's feet.

In light of this, with varying emphases and quite different agendas, numerous Yemeni, Arab and Western political scientists have attempted to answer the following question: Despite urbanization, education and party pluralism, why do political elites in united Yemen continue to be vulnerable to the political ideologies of tribal life?

One convincing answer is that united Yemen's political elites have failed to build a successfully integrated state able to transcend regional and tribal affiliations. In successful political communities around the world, political elites rely upon the conviction of all groups in all regions and provinces of the state that they are free citizens who enjoy equal political and legal rights.

However, this type of elite-sponsored political engineering requires one important condition, namely, the existence of an effective state. In other words, successful national integration cannot occur without

building responsive administrative, judicial and legislative bodies equipped to carry out important state duties such as providing social services, security and justice, in addition to facilitating participation and the peaceful transfer of political power.

A mountaintop view of united Yemen's political landscape reveals the reluctance of its political elites to invest national resources in building effective state institutions, focusing instead on adopting a strategy of survival. Indeed, it's this reluctance and this strategy that have enabled tribalism to continue its expansion and dominance in the nation's 21st century political life.

In my view, the tribe's growing influence within Yemen's political arena isn't an indicator of the success of tribal activism in the form of conferences and alliances; rather, it indicates the disastrous failure of government institutions, political parties and civil society.

Tribalism makes much sense from the perspective of socio-cultural affiliations because it's an extensive web of kin-based relations constituting an important safety net and an identity network providing economical, emotional and psychological shelters. Additionally, it binds its mem-

bers through relations of solidarity and mutual trust.

For these reasons, tribalism shouldn't be completely discouraged from playing an important role in Yemeni society.

The experiences of tribes in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, as well as in the Central Asian republics during the Soviet era, teach us how – despite harshly imposed regime-orchestrated social reforms – tribal socio-cultural institutions have managed to survive and retain their values system.

However, contemporary tribalism in Yemen isn't represented by activists defending noble tribal values, but rather by a group of politically influential individuals playing the tribal card in politics. The main objective of their game isn't promoting their tribesmen's socio-economic interests, but rather the personal acquiring of ever larger shares of the shrinking Yemeni national cake.

Therefore, it is tribal elitism – not tribes and tribalism – that should be blamed for distorting the picture of state-society relations in united Yemen. However, it must be noted here that the roots of this tribal elite's attitude are structural and not personal in nature.

Among others, these structural roots

include the geopolitics of the Arabian Peninsula, the failure of united Yemen's Constitution to become a national consensus document able to domesticate citizens' traditional loyalties to the unified Yemeni nation-state, and the credibility gap of the political administration and political parties. Such gap results from the seasonal evoking and provoking of national aspirations toward democracy and development without providing concrete solutions or fulfilling promises.

Current inter-clan relations within the political cadres of united Yemen and the unstable balance between public institutions and tribal tendencies are causing – and will continue to cause – further disturbance of the state-building process and the deepening of the growing mistrust of state institutions by a large segment of society.

No breaking of both the current deadlock on a series of political issues and the vicious cycle of socio-economic instability in Yemen can occur without banning the playing of the tribal card in politics for personal gain. To prevent such card playing, united Yemen's governing mechanism should reposition itself to become proactive in building its citizens' confidence in national modern institutions.

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullatif Al-Faqih (dralfaqih@yahoo.com).

Their News

OMV plans 40 new oil wells in Yemen



OMV, Austria announced its plan to dig 40 new oil wells by 2010 in Block S2 (Al Uqlah) in the Shabwa province of

Yemen. This plan comes under the company's desire to grow its oil production to more than 30 thousand barrel daily.

OMV – Yemen general manager Elmar Colins said the plan includes increasing the oil production of the company through digging new wells and creating a new production unit that will be linked with the oil refinery in Safer through an exporting line about 120 kilometers long.

Colins said that this ambition is based on strong indicators encouraging investment in the sector S2 which currently produces 6 thousand and 200 barrels daily from seven oil wells. He also noted that the company is planning to invest in other oil sectors in Shabwa and Al-Mahara provinces.

The company has started implementing the Ministry of Oil and Minerals pol-

icy regarding Yemenizing employment. Colins predicted that in the coming two years around 90 percent of the workers will be Yemenis.

OMV has been active in Yemen since the early 1990s. The company has an office in Sana'a, Yemen, with 10 employees, including 3 expatriates.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Launches Campaign to End Violence against Women



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched last Monday a multi-

year campaign to intensify action to end violence against women and girls.

At least one out of every three women in the world is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime, according to UN estimates, and one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape. Trafficking, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, dowry murder, hon-

our killings and female infanticide are other widespread aspects of the problem.

"Violence against women and girls makes its hideous imprint on every continent, country and culture," said the Secretary-General. "It is time to focus on the concrete actions that all of us can and must take to prevent and eliminate this scourge – Member States, the United Nations family, civil society and individuals – women and men. It is time to break through the walls of silence, and make legal norms a reality in women's lives."

The campaign will aim to mobilize public opinion to ensure that policy makers at the highest level work to prevent and eradicate violence against women. A key target will be to secure political will and increased resources from governments, international institutions, United Nations entities, the private sector and other donors for policies and programmes to tackle the problem. The Secretary-General is calling on world leaders, men and women, to lead national campaigns to end violence against women.

The growing commitment of men to prevent and combat violence against women will be leveraged, and the campaign will welcome and encourage the active involvement of men and boys, recognizing the critical role they must play.

Running from 2008 to 2015 – to coincide with the target date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the campaign will focus on three key areas: global advocacy; United Nations leadership by example; and strengthened efforts and partnerships at the national, regional and international levels. The link to the MDGs reflects the fact that violence against women constrains the active involvement of women in development and is seen as a serious obstacle to the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

Building on Momentum. The campaign will harness the existing strong

momentum in the General Assembly and the Security Council to take action against all forms of violence against women, including rape in conflict and post-conflict situations. In recent years, Governments have made significant advances at international, regional and national levels by establishing legal and policy frameworks, covering many different forms of violence and seeking to end impunity. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders pledged to redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and, following the release of an in-depth study by the Secretary-General, further impetus was generated by two General Assembly resolutions (61/143 and 62/133) on intensi-

fication of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, adopted in December 2006 and 2007 respectively, and a resolution on rape and sexual violence (62/134) adopted in December 2007. However, much more needs to be done.

The campaign will build upon the decades of work by women activists, women's groups and other civil society organizations who, as agents of change, continue to lead the struggle to expose and counter violence. Their determination and hard work has placed the issue on the global agenda and deepened understanding of the nature and scope of violence against women and girls and its impact on the survivors, their families,

communities and countries.

Strengthening the role of the United Nations in ending violence and creating an organizational culture within the UN System that rejects violence against women and girls and takes action to prevent and address it are also important aims of the campaign. The ongoing reform of the UN, aimed at enhanced coherence, has created an enabling environment for the UN System to work together on this issue. UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict – a collaborative initiative of 12 UN entities – and other efforts, such as UNIFEM's "Say NO to violence against women" on-line signature campaign, demonstrate this new approach.

Correction of the Deadline Date of the Master Fellowships Announcement

In reference to the announcement of the availability of 6 master fellowships in Higher education, published on Thursday 28 February page 4, we would like to correct the deadline date of the application for the master degree. The correct deadline is 10 March 2008.



ICRC

The ICRC is a neutral and independent International Organisation. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Yemen is looking for suitable candidates to fill the following vacancy:

Water & Habitat Technician
(Water technician or civil engineering technician)
In Sa'ada

Your tasks:

- Carry out field assessments in the Sada'a region
- Define rural water and habitat construction projects and assist the Engineers in the preparation of plans
- Supervision of implementation of the projects

Selection requirements:

- Technical experience in the field of water supply
- 2 to 3 years of professional experience in a similar position (knowledge of project implementation), would count to the applicant's advantage, but not a strict requirement.
- Good knowledge of the Sada'a region, preferably having grown up or lived there, would count to the applicant's advantage, but not a strict requirement.
- Good command of spoken English is strongly recommended.

Please submit your application (letter of motivation, CV, copies of certificates/diplomas) to the ICRC, Administration, Sana'a, Baghdad Street, Street No 19 – P.O.Box 2267, fax 467 875, or ICRC, Administration, Sa'ada, Yemeni Red Crescent Street telefax 07517301. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The last date for receiving the applications is 20.03.08.

Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement No. (1) of [2008]
(One Envelope System: Technical + Financial)

The General Corporation for School Book Printing Press here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender No. (1/2008) for supplying (7000 tons) offset Printing Paper.

- Bids are formed of 3 groups (A, B, C):
A- White Roll Offset Printing Paper(70 grams) quantity (4200 tons).
B- White Sheet Offset Printing Paper(70 grams) quantity (2300 tons).
C- White Glazed Bristol Board for Offset Printing (190 grams) quantity (500 tons).

- Bidders may apply for the 3 groups or 1 group
- Tender will be financed from: Self-financing
- Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to:

General Corporation for School Book Printing Press
Al-jraf – Air Port Street – nearby Al-Kibsi School
Tel & Fax : 00967 1 332634
P.O. Box :2782

to receive Bidding Documents for an amount [100,000 YR] non-refundable.

- The deadline for selling Bidding Documents will be on [25/3/2008].
- Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the above address, mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department.

The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (50,000,000 YR) of Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 105 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)
- 5- Valid Zakat certificate
- 6- Valid sales tax certificate registration (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- 7- Samples (80 paper A4) from each group for test them.

- A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.
- The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be on [2/4 /2008].
- Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.
- Bid Opening will take place at [meetings hall-in the corporation] and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- Potential bidders may inspect Bidding Documents before purchasing during working hours for a period (15 days) starting from advertisement.

Village children are back in school because of water wells

By: Hamed Thabet

Upon arriving in Al-Riyam village of Rada'a in Al-Beidha governorate, visitors will notice an unforgettable feature. Women and their children, usually between the ages of five and 12, ride donkeys and sometimes travel two kilometers on foot to buy drinking water. Most of these children don't attend school because they're constantly traveling to buy drinking water.

There are between 10 to 12 water wells in Al-Riyam, but all are used exclusively by qat farmers. Six small settlements make up Al-Riyam village, which has a population of 6,000 and all of them, without exception – men, women and children – work on qat farms because it's their only means of income.

"Instead of going to school, I ride a donkey two kilometers to buy water and fills the container with four gallons of water," said 9-year-old Musa'id Al-

three times a day," said 8-year-old Ali Mohammed Al-Riyami, "Because we have no donkeys, we would put the gallon on top of our heads and walk."

"Al-Riyam villagers care about qat more than their families," says qat farm owner Hassan Al-Riyami, "What's wrong if my child goes to buy water two or three times a day? He must be a real man and strong. He can go to school if he has free time."

The village has a motto: No qat, no life.

"Qat is much more important than anything else," maintains Zaid Al-Riyami, "We can buy [drinking or domestic] water from other places, but it's very expensive to buy water for qat." He notes that his village's qat is harvested every two months for sale at markets in Dhamar, Aden, Taiz and Sana'a.

For the past two years, Yemen's Charitable Society for Social Welfare has observed this grievous situation and has decided to end the problem via a water project aiming to enable village children to attend school and help

It asked the Qatar Charitable Society for financial help with this problem in 2007. The Qatar society donated 1 million Qatari dinars, or approximately YR 55 million, to initiate a project to solve Al-Riyam's drinking water problem.

Mechanical engineer Mohammed Al-Wajeeh supervised the project with the cooperation of geologist Sha'if Al-'Aizi, both of whom work with the Ministry of Social Affairs.

"Commencing at the end of November 2007, the project took four months for experts to dig an artesian well at a depth of 307 meters. The productivity of this well is 10 liters per second," Al-Wajeeh explained, adding, "There's also a large reservoir tank with a capacity of 150 cubic meters."

An artesian well (a hot spring or geyser) is one drilled through impermeable rock or sediment to water held under pressure in a confined aquifer and coming from a higher altitude so that there's pressure. In aquifers of this type, water in the lower regions is trapped between two layers of impermeable rock and can't rise to the level of the water table in the upper, unconfined regions.

When a well penetrates the confined region, the pressure forces the water to rise within the well until it reaches the elevation of the water table in the unconfined region. A water table higher than the well ensures water pressure will consistently force water into an artesian well.

According to Al-Wajeeh, this artesian well program can provide water for 20 years, provided locals don't use it for qat or dig wells near it.

Abdullah Al-Ahmar, deputy governor of Al-Beidha governorate, inaugurated both the well and the reservoir tank Feb. 19.

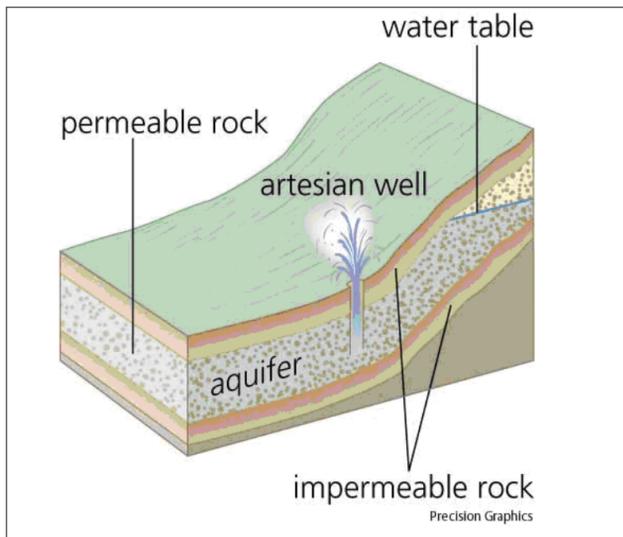
"A 12,000-meter network of pump lines connects the artesian well to the village," explains Saleh Al-Aqra'a, the charitable society's development project manager.

He added, "The site is protected on each side every 500 meters because at the onset of the project, numerous locals attempted to dig their own private wells, but we stopped them and moved nearer to the old well."

Before the project began, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare



Children used to ride their donkeys in order to get water.



Riyami, "Then, I had to go again because my family needed more water."

Not all families in Al-Riyam village have donkeys, so many women and children walk to buy their water. "My mom and I used to walk two kilometers

women care for their households rather than constantly traveling back and forth for water.

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare is a non-governmental organization founded in 1990 to provide assistance to Yemen's poor.

made an agreement with the villagers in a local court to ensure that they wouldn't use the water for qat farming, Al-Aqra'a noted.

The project almost didn't happen due to the village's remote mountainous location and the dangerous dirt roads leading up to it. Because of these conditions, no company would contract to bring in diggers, even with a lucrative offer, Al-Aqra'a said.

Because it was difficult to come and go daily due to the poor road conditions, Al-Wajeeh spent two weeks straight in the village.

"We wish and hope for more cooperation from the government because we as the Charitable Society for Social Welfare can't remove these obstacles alone," indicated Hamid Ma'oudha, the society's general manager, adding that 2009 plans will focus on the nation's water problem because Yemen is in danger of running out of water completely.

As villager Al-Khadhar Al-Riyami says, "In the past, I used to make my three children go and buy water, but

now that there's a specialized well for water, I think it's time to let my children go to school and study."

natco

A unique Job Opportunities with a leading trading Co.

National trading Co. Ltd. – natco seeking senior experts for the following managements:

- Finance & Auditing dep't
- CRM dep't
- HR dep't
- Sales & Marketing dep't
- Executive secretary

Requirements:

Bachelor degree – Minimum of Eight years of experience – Fluency in both written and spoken English and Arabic

Interested candidates can fax CV to 01-441544/5

Or Email: info@natco.com.ye

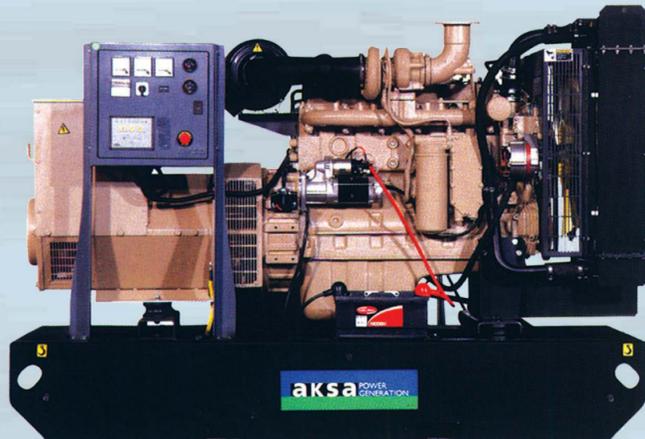
For more information about natco, please visit our Web site www.natco.com.ye

أجمل التهانى وأطيب التبركات نرفعا للأخ /
عصام الدعيس
بمناسبة ارتقاء المولود الجديد والتي اسمها
مرام
فألك ألف مبروك
المعلنون :
صحيفة يمن تايمز

أجمل التهانى وأطيب التبركات نرفعا للمراد /
زياد صالح العليبي
بمناسبة ارتقاء المولود الجديد والتي اسمها
محمد
فألك ألف مبروك
المعلنون :
والدك العميد / صالح محسن العليبي واخوانك - سامي مريح - وليد الصلاحي
صالح عبد الله العليبي - علي مياس واخيه - المقنن مجلي واخوانه

aksa POWER GENERATION
THE RELIABLE SOURCE
IN POWER GENERATION

Head office : Sana'a - Haddah St.
Tel : 510372 - Fax : 510373
E-mail : yesyem@y.net.ye
Showroom: Al-Zubairi St. Tel: 465574
Aden : Tel : 345503 - Fax : 345512



Generating sets in the range of 2.2 KVA to 3000 KVA

POWER YOUR LIFE

Yemen Equipment & Supply
YES
الشركة اليمنية للمعدات والتجهيزات المحدودة

Tragedy and alleged neglect at Al-Saba'een Hospital

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojalli

Mohammed Al-Ansi stopped in the middle of his story to keep from crying while he recounted his daughter Shorouq's tragic story.

Eighteen-month-old Shorouq died last fall at the Sana'a-based Al-Saba'een Hospital possibly due to medical malpractice.

The Al-Ansi family's story began Sept. 17, 2007, when Shorouq was admitted to Al-Saba'een hospital complaining of a bloated stomach.

Dr. Issam Al-Mu'alim was assigned to Shorouq's case and requested that she remain in the hospital overnight to prepare for surgery the next day, as she was suffering an intestinal blockage and requiring a barium X-ray.

Al-Mu'alim alleges that her parents went to do the X-ray in a private clinic and only returned to the hospital two days later, whereas they maintain that they did the X-ray that same night, returning to the hospital immediately.

As is common before surgery, Al-Mu'alim, as the supervisor of Shorouq's case, ordered her to remain at the hospital in a private room because she required surgery.

However, the next day, instead of performing the scheduled surgery, Al-Mu'alim phoned in his instructions regarding Shorouq's medical needs to nurses and the other doctors on duty because another doctor was covering that day's shift.

According to Al-Ansi, on-duty nurse Sawsen Al-Wajih withheld food from the infant for two days as preparation for the surgery, in accordance with Al-Mu'alim's instructions.

"We told her that Shorouq should only fast the day before surgery, but she replied that it wasn't our business, telling us that if she eats or drinks anything, she'll end up with food poison-



The victim.

ing," Al-Ansi recalled.

He and his family then suggested Al-Wajih give Shorouq nutrients intravenously, but she again refused.

During those two days, Shorouq didn't have even a drop of water, according to her father, who added that the child complained and cried due to her extreme thirst and hunger. Throughout this ordeal, the Al-Ansi family never once saw Al-Mu'alim.

After two days, Shorouq's family noticed that her brain had atrophied, at which point they called another doctor on the hospital's staff, Majed Mughalis, to examine her, discovering that she was dehydrated from the fasting.

Al-Ansi telephoned Al-Mu'alim, complaining about the neglectful care his daughter was receiving and warning him that the family would file a complaint against the nurses with the hospital's Legal Affairs Department.

Al-Mu'alim came to the hospital an hour later, at which point he and the Al-Ansi family filed complaints against the nurses with the Legal Affairs Department; however, the department completely neglected the

two complaints. The Yemen Times attempted to determine the reason, but in vain.

After lodging the two complaints to the hospital's administration, staff member Dr. Riyadh Mansour gave Shorouq an IV with nutrients for half an hour. Additionally, he inserted a tube into her rectum in order to extract waste.

In total, Shorouq remained at the hospital for five days, during which she received no food or water, by order of Al-Mu'alim, according to Al-Ansi.

On the fifth and final day of her life at the hospital, two nurses gave Shorouq sequential doses of an unknown medication. Al-Ansi said that when he told the second nurse that the first nurse already had given his child a dose of medicine, the nurse turned to him with an alarmed look and asked why he didn't tell her before.

A few minutes later, Shorouq experienced a strong muscle spasm and bit her own tongue. Attempting to pry open her jaws with his own hands, her father ran into the corridor and started shouting for help.

A doctor came to resuscitate her, but to no avail, as Shorouq died shortly afterward.

After her death, Shorouq's parents filed another complaint with the hospital's general manager, Dr. Amat Al-Karim Al-Houri, against Al-Mu'alim and the three nurses.

She suspended Al-Mu'alim and the nurses for two months. She then allowed Al-Mu'alim to work for half a day before suspending him for another month.

Al-Houri maintained that she could neither condemn the doctor and nurses nor acquit them of wrongdoing unless she reviewed Shorouq's original case (treatment) file.

Once the hospital received the original file – under orders from the pub-

lic prosecutor – it issued a report on the infant's cause of death.

Al-Saba'een Hospital refused to give a copy of its report to Al-Anisi, but Al-Houri said Shorouq's death resulted from her infection, brain atrophy.

Fallout

Al-Ansi came with his story to the Yemen Times, carrying a large bag of documents full of investigations, complaints and newspapers that had dealt with this situation. Although he's gone to the Southwest Prosecution, Attorney General Abdullah Al-Ulfi, Prime Minister Ali Mujawar and filed complaints against the hospital, he doesn't feel that justice has been served yet.

Al-Ansi says his main priority in all of these actions is to disclose those cases similar to his daughter's, as well as holding the hospital staff accountable for what he believes was gross negligence.

Additionally, instead of handing it over to the hospital's administration, he has decided to keep Shorouq's case file in order to use it as evidence at a later trial. He has decided to turn to the prosecution and then to the courts because he's convinced his daughter died due to negligence and that the case will reach the court system.

The investigation begins...

According to reports by Al-Saba'een Hospital's criminal investigations office, Al-Mu'alim has confessed that nine of his patients died within one month, September 2007, as the result of negligence, but he then later withdrew that statement.

However, the Yemen Times did uncover a document at the hospital stating that Al-Mu'alim had nine patients – all children – who died in September 2007.

When presented with the documents, Al-Mu'alim alleges that the

officer of the hospital's Criminal Investigation's Office wrote the document himself and he just signed it based on his trust in the officer.

The documents regard investigations by that office.

When asked, Al-Mu'alim replied that he wasn't present on the day and doesn't know what type of medication the two nurses gave Shorouq or even if she died due to the double dose. He further stated that he thought that if the nurses had given her two doses of antibiotics, it wouldn't have been enough to kill her.

However, neither the medicine Shorouq received before her last seizure, nor the dosage, was written in her case file.

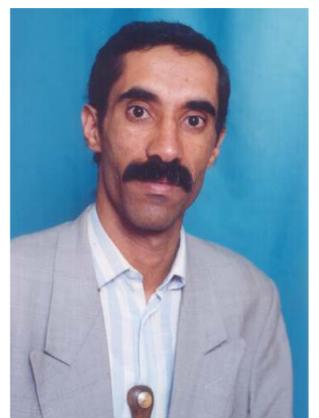
Regarding his complaint filed with the hospital manager against the two nurses, Al-Mu'alim commented, "When the girl's mother complained to me about the bad treatment of the nurses toward her, I filed that complaint against them, but not because of their being remiss in their duties."

When told that Shorouq was forced to fast for five days, he denied that she had fasted at all, although the hospital's general manager did admit that she had fasted in preparation for surgery.

Al-Mu'alim declined to comment on the hospital's overall performance in Shorouq's case.

The Southwest Prosecution got involved in the case for further investigation. Its member, Abdulmanan Al-Dubaie, said, "According to Al-Mu'alim, there was significant negligence in the qualifying nurses, lack of mechanisms and elements of remiss in their performance. Additionally, there were nine instances of deaths during September 2007 without investigation."

However, Al-Mu'alim maintains that when Shorouq entered the hospital experiencing intussusception (intestinal blockage), she arrived in



The victim's father.

the late stage of her disease. "The infant was infected with such disease during the mother's pregnancy and following delivery, she couldn't get rid of waste," he explained.

The prosecution later issued a final statement explaining that Shorouq's death was normal and the file was closed as a result.

Insisting that his daughter's death resulted from hospital staff negligence.

Al-Ansi is attempting to file a new complaint against Al-Saba'een Hospital, which he says is responsible for the shortage of medicine and oxygen during Shorouq's treatment.

He adds that the new complaint will include Al-Mu'alim and the nurses in particular because they are who were responsible for handling her case at the hospital.

Al-Ansi recently brought his case to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who ordered the case file reopened. Likewise, Al-Ansi now is attempting to pressure the Southwest Prosecution to reopen the investigation and he is insisting that they reveal similar cases.

SUZUKI YEMEN CO. *Aden: 02 346000 - 340042 * Mukalla : 05 314614 /5
A MEMBER OF BAMAROUF GROUP

OMV Exploration & Production

Move up?
Move to OMV.

OMV Exploration & Production GmbH is the independent operating division of OMV AG, the leading oil and natural gas group in Central and Eastern Europe. We operate over 450 oil and gas fields worldwide both onshore and offshore. Our ambition is to become a significant international upstream player by seeking new business opportunities and targeting production growth like our oil field operations in Shabwah governorate, Republic of Yemen. With two existing blocks and new successes during the last license rounds we expand our activities to achieve our ambitious growth plans.

Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator:
The OMV HSEQ Division requires a dynamic individual to fulfil the role of Community Liaison. This is a challenging role which will require a person with drive and initiative to be part of the HSEQ Team, working to promote positive community relations in the field.

Recipients:

- Personnel from any of the following disciplines Oil and gas industry, community relations, public relations, working with communities, social scientist

Job responsibilities:

- Establishing and implementing clear communications channels with local stakeholders
- Strong and mutually trusting relationships with local stakeholders
- Keeping OMV Yemen informed of community issues and concerns
- Rolling out and out the social investment program in the field
- Participate &, coordinate local needs analysis
- Implement and manage social investment projects in the operational areas
- Build good relations with local tribes and communities and other stakeholders
- Support HSEQ / CSR department
- Inform OMV team members local social issues that may arise in our operations
- Inform employees and contractors on OMV's values and cultural awareness
- Coordinate between OMV's Field / Projects management and contractors

Competencies:

- Bachelor degree (preferable) in social science or equivalent
- 3 years experience in community relations/development
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills related to community issues
- Familiarity with the rural environment in Shabwah Governorate & the Environs
- Experience working with a wide range of stakeholders
- Good communication and negotiations skills
- Computer literate
- Willingness to take on challenges and work as part of a team
- Strong initiative; ability to organize and manage tasks required
- Knowledge of English will be an advantage
- Preferred legal knowledge
- Oil & gas sector projects experience

Other:

- This is a great opportunity for the right person, our business has a large responsibility and this role will be an integral part of ensuring that our goals of promoting positive community coordination & relations are achieved.
- The selected personnel will receive orientation and guidance on OMV Yemen systems.
- Ability and willingness to live and work in a multicultural project environment and work on rotational basis 28 days working days, 28 days off (filed based job).

Are you interested in joining our team?
Please send your application along with a cover letter mentioning the position you are applying for to the following email address: Info.recruitment.ye@omv.com Or to the fax no: 00967-1-421984
OMV is an equal opportunity employer.
Notice to display until **March 15, 2008**

OMV
Move & More. OMV

**REPUBLIC OF YEMEN-MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
SANA'A BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SBWMP)
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of Sana'a Water Management project and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of the installation of Different Irrigation Systems/Networks. Now the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invites qualified and experienced local Specialist/Engineers to apply for the following post:

National Irrigation Systems Engineer (Specialist in Irrigation Agronomy)

Under the overall supervision of the Director General of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project, and the Senior Irrigation Engineer, he/she shall have the following tasks:

1. Participate with the Social Mobilization Teams of the Project in reviewing and assessing the applications received from farmers for installation of appropriate irrigation systems on their farms;
2. Conduct detailed field assessment on the status of farms selected by the Social Mobilization Teams for final approval, and to ensure that the criteria set for selection in been adhered to;
3. Prepare detail designs of different irrigation systems including production of detailed designs and complete bill of quantities for both pressurized and gravity irrigation systems to be installed on pilot demonstration and private farms, based on the surveys conducted by the project's surveying team, (Drip, bubbler, sprinklers, and water conveyance networks...etc.);
4. Supervise installation of the pressurized irrigation systems (drip, sprinklers, bubblers) and the gravity systems (conveyance and distribution) on both pilot demonstration and private farms, and provide farmers with initial training on site in operation and necessary maintenance for the systems;
5. Assist the Senior Irrigation Engineer and the IPAC staff in the dissemination of appropriate irrigation practices and technologies to farmers through field day demonstrations, training courses, seminars and workshops;
6. Collect data related to the efficiency, equitability and effectiveness of distribution of irrigation systems under the project, and on their adequacy to meet the needs of the irrigation water sector in Sana'a Basin;
7. Regular monthly report on progress of implementation of the approved Irrigation Component work plans, quantify the achievements, highlight obstacles encountered, and present recommendations for the smooth and timely implementation of the work plan; and
8. Carry out any other related duties as requested by the Sana'a Basin Water Management project.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- University degree in Irrigation Engineering/Agricultural Engineering with major in Irrigation Agronomy.
- At least five years of field experience in irrigation systems design, installation, supervision, operation and maintenance and engineering related works. Specifically, experience in field installation of on-farm pressurized irrigation systems including drip, bubbler and sprinkler is essential, as well as experience in operation and maintenance of these systems.
- Good computer literacy.
- Fluency in English language is an advantage.

Duration of Assignment:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP, 60m. Street, Sana'a ROY. Tel.: (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax: (00967-1-469158), E-mail: (saldubby@yemen.net.ye).

The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday 08th March 2008.

**REPUBLIC OF YEMEN-MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
SANA'A BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SBWMP)
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of recruiting an international Training Facilitator. Now the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invites qualified and experienced local Specialist to apply for the following post:

National Training Facilitator

Under the overall supervision of the Director General of Sana'a Basin Water Management project, and The Training Committee, he/she shall have the following tasks:

1. Review with the Training Committee the existing training plans, extent of coverage and degree of effectiveness in implementing these plans
2. Actively participate in the selection process of trainees
3. Coordinate the execution of training program
4. Preparing and maintaining training manuals
5. Managing training schedules, and conducts all local/international communication to organize the schedules
6. Act as a secretary to the Training Committee of the project
7. Any other tasks related to the project objectives

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Preferable university degree in related fields.
- At least three years of work experience.
- Good in computer and Internet.
- Good in English and Arabic.

Duration of Assignment:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter.

Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow: SBWMP, 60M. Street, Sana'a ROY. Tel: (00967-1-469159/7/6), Fax: (00967-1-469158), E-mail: (saldubby@yemen.net.ye).

The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday 08th March 2008.



LinkInTime Ltd.
Iran Street - Haddah
Sana'a - P.O. Box 16871
YEMEN
<http://www.linkintime.com>

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Candidate profile:

We are looking for a database administrator to join our team. You will work on different kinds of architectures, systems and applications. Your leitmotif will be to provide the best quality of services to our customers and employees.

Company profile:

As a brief introduction, LinkInTime Ltd. is a company established in 2004 and outsourcing in Yemen operating as a services and solutions provider in both B2B and Value Added Services fields.

Job duties and key responsibilities:

- Develop and support MySQL database replication.
- Optimize MySQL database performance.
- Estimate MySQL database capacities; develop methods for monitoring database capacity and usage.
- Establish mechanisms for data backup/restore of relational databases; provide restoration services as needed.
- Develop and optimize physical design of MySQL database systems.
- Develop application-specific fault-tolerant distributes database mechanisms.

Required experience and background:

- Demonstrated experience with relational database physical design.
- Demonstrated experience with relational database performance tuning and Capacity planning especially on MySQL based environment.
- Experience with open source/Linux development and production environment is CRITICAL.

Preferred experience:

- **Minimum 2 years experience as a DBA or equivalent.**
- Experience with MySQL.
- Experience with distributed database systems.

You should be fluent in English (reading, writing, and speaking) and other languages are also appreciated but are not a requirement.

Permanent contract with a compulsory trial period of 3 months.
Salary: depending on experience.
The working hours are: 9.00 - 13.00 / 14.00 - 19.00 from Saturday to Wednesday.
Location: Sana'a, YEMEN.
Start: As soon as possible.

If you are interested please send us your CV and Application Letter in English by e-mail to: jobs@linkintime.com

**Republic of Yemen
Ministry of agriculture and Irrigation
Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project**

Job Vacancy Procurement Assistant

Invitation N°: RALP/PT/01/08

Date: 1st., March, 2008

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (Borrower) has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of **Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project (RALP)**. The Borrower intends to create a **Project Support Unit (PSU)** to carry out all facilities of the Project under World Bank and Government rules.

The PSU now invites qualified applicants to provide their application with CV's and all certificates, for the above job (**Procurement Assistant**) to the address below, in sealed envelopes. More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference and qualifications' require as follows:

Terms of Reference

Under the supervision and guidance of the Procurement Officer, the Procurement Assistant will be responsible for:

1. Participating in planning and management of the procurement of goods, civil works and consultancy services.
2. Preparing and organizing data information and control plans for the procurement activities;
3. Provides technical support and assistance to procurement officer in itemizing and listing all goods and works required for preparing and revising the bidding documents according to the procurement program activities;
4. Assists in working with relevant sectors for reviewing the TORs for the selection of consulting firms;
5. Ensuring that documents have received appropriate approvals in accordance with the Development Credit Agreement (DCA);
6. Assisting in preparing and attending all bidding opening, evaluation, and contract preparing in accordance with the procedures described in the Procurement Manual and IDA guidelines;
- 7- Contributes to procurement activities' quality assurance in terms of time and effectiveness;
- 8- Arrange for proper delivery of goods to the project's institutions in accordance with the signed contracts and the targeted dates in the implementation schedule.

Qualifications' Required

1. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in engineering commerce, business administration, or equivalent qualification.
2. A least 5 years experience in procurement management activities;
3. Familiarity with the government and IDA procurement guidelines and procedures
4. Demonstrated skills in computer application and use of software programs for procurement database and monitoring;
5. Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All applicants will be through a short-list, and those candidates who are short listed will be invited for an individual interview.

The Procurement Assistant will be selected under the procedures in accordance with the policies of the (IDA).

Dead line for receiving applications will be on **March 15th, 2008-14:00 pm**

Applications should be submitted to-

Attn. Project Manager,
P.O.Box: 13181
Abu Baker Al Sedeek Street
In front of the Yemen Japanese Friendship Association
Tel: 441770 Fax: 441768
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
E-mail: ralp@yemen.net.ye

Women in Saudi Arabia

“At last we are being asked”

Fatima Azzaz and Mansour al-Timani were divorced one year ago, albeit against their will. Fatima's half-brothers sued to have the marriage dissolved because Mansour was beneath them in the clan hierarchy. A Saudi court agreed, separated the couple, and even went as far as to imprison Fatima and her son. For UN Special Rapporteur Yakin Ertürk, this case is symptomatic of the Islamic kingdom.

"The sentence shows the contradictions and insecurities that are inherent in the Saudi legal system; there is no code of law for the regulation of private matters." Ertürk recently paid a visit to Saudi Arabia where she spoke with politicians and academics on behalf of the UN Human Rights Council about discrimination against women and met victims like Fatima Azzaz. "Mansour and Fatima are both in a dreadful state of mind," she reports.

Under the tutelage of men

Fatima is not the only woman in the kingdom to suffer this fate. Saudi women are under the tutelage of men from the cradle to the grave. Regardless of their age, they are never allowed to make decisions for themselves. Go on a trip abroad? Sign a contract? Undergo an operation? Women may only ever do any of these things with the approval of their father, brother, or husband. They



This woman (if indeed it is a woman) is about to break the law: Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world where female driving is illegal.

also have to appear in court with their legal guardian.

But what happens when a woman's legal guardian is not acting in her best interests, but in fact wants to harm her? There are no laws regulating such cases. "In addition to the system of tutelage, this is the greatest problem facing Saudi women," says Ertürk.

The fact that women in Saudi Arabia must wear veils is seen in the West as a symbol of discrimination against them.

For many Saudi women, however, other regulations constitute an even greater intrusion into their lives: the strict segregation of the sexes, for example, which makes it difficult for them to find jobs, or the fact that they are not allowed to drive.

"There is a lot of debate about this because it restricts women's movement," says Dahlia Rahaimy. Rahaimy is a successful businesswoman. She spent six years working for the only

English-language newspaper in the kingdom, Arab News. While there, she was head-hunted by the Saudi investment authority, Sagia, and is now responsible for the authority's German and Austrian portfolios. It is her job to attract investors into the kingdom; she regularly commutes between Frankfurt and the industrial city of Jeddah.

Minor steps for slow change

"When you are out of Saudi Arabia for too long, you begin to lose your feeling for the country," she says. This is understandable, especially because the kingdom is slowly changing – even for women. Since January, it is possible for women to spend the night alone in a hotel, and by the end of the year, the country's first female law students will graduate. A court in Jeddah has already employed female lawyers.

"At the moment, you still have to get your law degree abroad," explains Rahaimy, who spent her childhood in Germany and studied in Ireland. "However, there are now factories for women, there are female architects, and women even appear on television." The most important change, however, is more subtle: "Women are at last being asked. I am the expert for Germany at Sagia, and from the big boss right down to the guy who sorts the mail, I'm the one they come to when they want to know something about Germany," she says.

UN Special Rapporteur Ertürk notes that for several years now, minor steps have been taken to improve life for women. Progress has been made as regards access to education in particular. Moreover, women's problems are being addressed more openly. For example, domestic violence, which was a taboo for so long, is now being discussed.

Dahlia Rahaimy is of the opinion that

the biggest opponents of reform are not in fact the politicians or the clerics, but women themselves. Says Rahaimy: "There are a few who say that it is just our lot not to drive." She feels that this attitude is the result of tradition and social control. Maybe Fatima and Mansour will benefit from this cautious change. After all, the government has promised Ertürk to make "provisions" to re-unite the couple.



Contemplating the freedom of veilessness: in Saudi Arabia, religious police enforce wearing the veil; many women are wearing the Niqab, a veil which covers the face

Yemeni children's future goes up in (tobacco) smoke

By: Alia Ishaq
For Yemen Times

Tobacco kills up to half of those who use it – 5.4 million people a year – according to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) report. Though it is widely known that Yemen has many adult smokers, there is another side to the story: child smokers.

The WHO conducted a 3,000-person survey in Yemen with male and female students between the ages of 13 and 15. The study found that nearly 19 percent of the children surveyed were already smokers at this age. This means that around 570 out of 3,000 students in middle school are smoking.

Nasser is 12-year-old boy who smokes while helping people carry their bags outside a supermarket.

When asked why he smokes, Nasser was indignant. "I'm a man now and I can do whatever I want to do," he said. Nasser said he started smoking after his father died when he started working in order to support his family.

"A friend of mine whom I really admire convinced me to try smoking and I agreed because I wanted to be like him," said Nasser.

15-year-old Amin, who washes cars and sells cassettes in the streets, said he had been smoking for four years, which meant he started smoking at 11. He says he smokes cigarettes to pass the time. When told that cigarettes could kill him Amin replied, "we are all going to die for different reasons, so I will only stop this habit once my life changes."

Though these two boys were dropouts, not all those children who smoke spend their time in the street.

Ahmed, 18, a student at Al-Forsan private school in Sana'a, said his friends convinced him to smoke and, since some of his family members were smokers, he didn't think twice about picking up a cigarette. "My father and uncle smoke, so what makes it wrong for me to smoke?" said Ahmed. "Plus, I am not doing drugs or alcohol, and cigarettes do not make me high."

"Most children smoke since they believe that they are 'man enough' to do what they want," said Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwhi, the Ministry of Health's director general of family health. "In some cases, it's simply because their parents smoke."

Researchers at the Oncologychannel.com said that about



one third of all cancer is linked to tobacco use and 90 percent of lung cancer cases are linked to smoking. So how does tobacco cause problems in children's bodies?

Smoking interferes with normal lung development in those who begin smoking as children or adolescents, according to Oncologychannel.com. Young people who smoke may become even more addicted to cigarettes and face a greater risk for developing lung cancer than those who start smoking later in life. Child or adolescent smokers become more likely to face depression and other physiological problems as well.

The good news is that there are laws to control tobacco use around the world. Yemen initiated an anti-smoking law in 2005 as well, but has not gone far enough to enforce it.

The law's goal is to ban tobacco advertisements as well as to prohibit smoking in public places, including schools and hospitals. The law stipulates that anyone caught smoking in these places will be fined YR500.

Nabila Al-Moktar, Principal of the Fath Al-Tawkee public school in Sana'a, emphasized that smoking is prohibited inside school, whether the smoker is a

student or a teacher. "However, the law is not implemented yet," she said. "We hope the law will be taken seriously, especially by teachers who should be the role models for students."

"We find it hard to stop teachers from smoking inside school since the smoking law is not enforced," said Rokaya Abdu, Vice Principal of Fatima Al-Zahra, another public school in Sana'a. "In case of students, we try to stop them in nonviolent ways like calling their parents," she added.

While progress to curb smoking has been made worldwide, not a single country fully implements all key tobacco control measures. Eighty percent of countries don't implement even one policy, said the WHO report.

Also, governments in lower income countries spend 9,000 times more money on tobacco import taxes each year than they spend on anti-tobacco efforts.

The report said that while tobacco is contributor to six of out of the eight leading causes of death in the world, it's still a preventable habit. If governments like Yemen's make more of an effort to fight smoking, eventually thousands of lives will be saved – including the lives of Yemeni children.

Runaway soldier's family arrested, held without charge

By: Nisreen Shadad
For The Yemen Times

Murad Al-Khamisi, a 19-year-old soldier at the Sayoun branch of Central Security, is accused of deserting the military and stealing arms from the branch. To compel his return, the military imprisoned Al-Khamisi's father and two older brothers.

Al-Khamisi disappeared June 20 and no one knows if he's currently alive or dead. After Al-Khamisi's disappearance, the military arrested his father and two older brothers without charge. Neither the military nor prison officials observed the rights of *habeus corpus*, which dictates that individuals in custody be brought before a court so that those detaining them can justify the detention, so the men languished in jail for a week without knowing what charges they faced.

Ali Al-Dailami, Executive Director of the , pointed out that , under Yemeni law, it's illegal to arrest "family members for more than eight months.

"If they doubt the family assisted their son in stealing the arms, they may imprison them legally, but for no more than 48 hours," Al-Dailami explained, after which they must be referred to prosecution for investigation and lastly, allowing a judge – the only one able to decide – to mandate whether they should be imprisoned or released.

Al-Khamisi, who joined the military immediately after graduating from high school, worked as a guard for the Sayoun arms warehouse for four years. Al-Khamisi's family likewise are involved in the military, as his two older brothers and father also are servicemen.

Al-Khamisi's father, 56-year-old Ahmed Al-Khamisi, worked as a soldier for 18 years and was one of the 103 Marching Brigade members. Before his arrest, he fought six months in Sa'ada for the Yemeni government.

Military officers summoned him to the Sana'a central security under the auspices of resolving a problem between his son and his army commander. However, upon his arrival June 21, 2007, he was arrested and detained as a criminal.

Likewise, Al-Khamisi's brothers, Walid, 22, and Adel, 23, were arrested the following day. Walid worked as a guard at Al-Rajawi clothing store in Sana'a while Adel was a soldier at Central Security iAl-Mahrah, the governorate. Adel also was a senior studying in the math department at Hadramout



Al-Khamisi's brothers.

University, where he was arrested outside of class on the final day of his exams.

Walid was told to wait for a local official on Al-Uroq Street in front of his house near Sana'a International Airport, but an armored military vehicle came to arrest him instead.

"I doubt that my brother ran away or stole the arms," the young men's sister Suad observed, "because his superiors are always praising him."

She further indicated that her brother enjoyed a good reputation within his army camp and that his supervisors praised him for his care of the arms warehouse. When asked for a certificate to prove that her brother indeed was honored at his base, she explained that such praise usually is given to soldiers orally in front of all the battalions.

Ahmed Al-Kamali, former head of the Sayoun Central branch, refused to give any information regarding how many or what type of arms were stolen and further declined to comment on Murad Al-Khamisi's disappearance as well, citing military considerations as the reason he was unable to comment.

Following this incident, Al-Kamali was relieved of his duties for nearly a month but later reappointed as a general staff member of Amran's Central Security team.

Like his older brothers, Al-Khamisi's 16-year-old brother Mohammed was arrested June 22, 2007 while visiting his family members at Sana'a Central Prison to give them food and money. "I was imprisoned three months," the

youth recalled, "When Yahya Mohammed Saleh, sheikh of Hajjah's Bin Athran tribe, visited the prison and saw me, he asked the head of security to release me because of my age," and indeed, he was released shortly thereafter.

"The other three are being held instead of Murad," Mohammed explained, "My father told me he won't be released until Murad turns himself in and returns the stolen arms."

Although the family also has appealed to various non-governmental organizations, the elder Al-Khamisi penned a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh urging him to review his and his two sons' cases.

In his plea, he noted that he and his two older sons were arrested based on the Sayoun incident and their salaries have been cut, potentially forcing his family to become vagrants.

He mentioned his son Murad in the letter, maintaining that his son would never do something like this, but if he had, he would be the first to take legal action against his son.

"Upon our arrest and learning of my son's crime, we requested every Yemeni security apparatus search for and find my son and then give him a fair trial," the elder Al-Khamisi wrote, pointing out, "We were arrested June 21, 2007 and have waited until now without trial."

However, Mohammed Al-Khamisi claims that the text of his father's letter sent to the head of Central Security was changed, "So his plea was in vain," he said.

Words of Wisdom



If more meaningful change is to be made in respect for human rights, the daily violations against the rights of ordinary citizens have to be addressed. This means introducing new values through education and re-education. One clear target is to train law-enforcement agencies and officers on the rights of citizens and how to respect them. Another has to do with re-training of prison wardens and personnel.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

The internet game

Recently we were hesitantly optimistic when the websites of Yemeni opposition newspapers had been unblocked for over a week. When we were writing the headline of the news telling that the websites have been unblocked, the suspicious me said we should use the word "halt" instead of "stop" describing internet censorship. And I was right, because two days after writing the news, the websites have been blocked again. Expect for Yemen Portal which is actually a news crawler and not a content generator.

When we tried to enquire about the censorship, the unblocking and the re-blocking of the websites we rotated from one official to the other just to know who is responsible for this issue.

The problem is that the Ministry of Information washed its hands from the issue due to the lack of legislations relating to electronic media.

The Ministry of Telecommunication responsible for the internet service and the facilitating of website says they are just a tool. They would not tell who instructs the blocking of the sites, in fact, the technicians there have the audacity to say that the sites are not really blocked, it must be a technical fault.

Then there is the political security authority who should not be involved in media, yet most of the hints point to its direction. So basically because newspapers have a political line, and because their tone does not please the ruling party, the political security pulls a few strings here and there and takes care of the issue.

So where does this leave us? Electronic media is a natural extension of media development. Technology requires us to move to that dimension. One that has not yet been fully understood or utilized even in advanced countries.

There is no point in chasing journalists across the net because determined journalists will always find a new way to get their message across.

There aren't many Yemeni bloggers now but the trend is growing and soon the internet game will be available for many people. And everyone who has access to the internet will be able to publish their opinion regardless of what they are.

What will happen then? Would the government take away the internet service all together and pull us back to the stone-age? I hope not, because this would mean we would have to opt for a new way to connect with the rest of the world, perhaps by leaving the country. Then what will happen if all the educated men and women leave Yemen? Who will the government chase after then?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Document of Pledge and Accord on its 14 Year Anniversary

By: Mohammed Al-Maqaleh

The twentieth of February 2008 coincided with the 14 year anniversary of the Document of Pledge and Accord, signed by the various Yemeni party and organization representatives in the Jordanian capital city of Amman. I think that most of the Yemeni people learn about the remarkable day that saw the document signed.

I was among those who attended the event and took part in its proceedings. For me the Document of Pledge and Accord was by all means a political, national and historical document. In fact, the document's significance doesn't arise from its terms or content, as the passage of time might have dropped part of it, thereby leaving the remaining part in a pressing need for serious development and review so that it contains all the Yemeni turmoil's developments since that date and up until now.

Dear respected readers, the document's significance arises from its being a national consensus product at first, notably as all the political opponents took part in the dialogue for the sake of reaching an agreement on the document and ratifying it. This is the ideal methodology we need today while addressing any national issues having something to do with the fate and future of Yemeni people, such as the currently experienced turmoil in our homeland. The Yemeni people behave as if they are not concerned with the turmoil, or as if it doesn't concern them. It is a political and national

stupidity that may not be seen elsewhere in the world.

Secondly, being signed before the whole world, the document meant and still means that all the Yemeni people admit that a national crisis exists and such a crisis has something to do with the turbulent status of the Unity State. They also admit the Unity State needs to be constitutionally, administratively and politically reviewed in a way ensuring that three key requirements are satisfied, and therefore we need to have these requirements satisfied before the current turmoil grows into a destructive catastrophe.

To see national partnership in power and fair distribution of resources and services is one of these requirements. By this, we need to have Yemen of equal citizenship, law and order, or in short, Yemen for all Yemeni people.

The second of the requirements associates with expanding the base of popular participation in decision-making, plus reviewing the standing election system and the way the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum is formed. Additionally, this review has to cover the Legislative Council term - be it of bicameral or unicameral legislature - and anything else that helps achieve equal representation for all the social groups and political parties in the elected bodies, on the one hand, and on the other, produce a more responsible executive exercising its powers for a specific term only like those of other countries where democracy continues to grow.

The third requirement is that of having neutral government institutions that must not be, in one way

or another, involved in conflicts. To be clearer, the army and security institutions should be reshuffled in a way ensuring their being neutral and independent, nepotism should be eliminated in order for people to enjoy justice and equality, and media should be free in order to enhance transparency and accountability. In brief, anything putting pressure on people's awareness and needs must be eliminated.

We have to make use of the lessons that forced us into signing the Document of Pledge and Accord. We should step up efforts with the purpose of reaching a national dialogue that involves all the political opponents, and during which all the potential participants need to admit that there is a crisis, and then suggest workable national solutions to building the state of law and order, equal citizenship and partnership.

In the meantime, we have to avoid mistakes of the bygone in order not to let the destruction forces take us into conflicts and wars again and again. In other words, we should make use of the available opportunity in order to help Yemen get rid of its historical dilemma. To be honest, Yemen may not be rescued from its turbulent status unless its natives demonstrate clear conscience, high sense of responsibility and self-accountability, and adoration for their homeland. It is time for natives of this homeland to be really patriotic and do their best for their nation's sake because 'No state can reach the peak of advancement unless its builders are natives.'

Source: Al-Thawry Weekly.

Political game or late awakening

By: Mohammed Shamsaddin

We are surprised by the Tuesday of religious awakening claimed by some Parliament members, primarily those who also work as mosque preachers and belong to the Islamist Islah Party. These people showed unprecedented enthusiasm to defend the social values as soon as a local newspaper published articles discussing various social issues, or they did so because they learned of a concert scheduled to take place in Aden City.

These conducts may not reflect a late awakening on the part of those who remained silent for a long time while their colleagues were exposing corruption cases, voicing people's demands and advocating the government to improve people's living standards.

Their being brave to slam the concert of the Syrian singer Asala Nasri and call for trying the independent MP Ahmad Saif Hashid raise numerous questions before any observer of the issue with regard to how he/she may know about the real motives or reasons behind discussing the two issues on the same day (Tuesday, February 19, 2008). It seems that offering the service to politics is given precedence over religious jealousy, particularly when we take into account that those who

organized the 'disbelief' campaign against Hashid are mosque preachers playing no effective role in the political arena.

In order not to elaborate in the intents of those whom we agree or disagree with regarding any religious or political issues, I believe that, as a citizen at first and secondly as a voter, I am entitled to question our representatives at Parliament, mainly after they have taken us to issues that ban singing and talks about social issues.

Given the assumption that awakening leaders in Parliament have the good intent to behave this way, are jealous of Islam and care for protecting society from any ill-mannered press articles that are not worth-publishing, we may believe in what they say, notably as they advocated that concerts contravene the Islamic Sharia and are responsible for wasting public funds. But, such did not happen, nor is this their actual intent.

If we ignore the way these parliamentarians deal with Civil Organization for Control & Audit's reports exposing corruption, and how such a phenomenon is responsible for people's poverty and behaviors, we will achieve nothing in favor of our homeland. The political game of Tuesday's awakening can not be ignored given that the escalated media campaigns against Hashid came after the International Union of Parliamentarians was urged to investigate the series of assaults

and harassments targeting the prominent MP.

Hashid has been, more than one time, exposed to inhuman assaults over discussing human rights abuses practiced by security agents against citizens. I don't know why his colleagues turn to be his real enemies instead of backing him and his paper that highlights human rights abuses. Even worse, they demanded the Parliament Presidency Board to revoke his immunity.

Source: Newsyemen.net.

SILVER LINING

Institutionalizing Yemen-US security relationship

Everybody was astonished by the appearance of Jaber Al-Banna, one of the FBI's 26 "most wanted" for terrorism, at a session of his trial in the state security court on Saturday, February 23. Accompanied by bodyguards, Al-Banna attended a session of the trial, which was held for him and other Al-Qaeda members charged with committing a series attacks on oil facilities in September 2006. However, after making his statement, Al-Banna walked free, apparently not subjected to any form of incarceration.



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi

It seems that U.S. confidence in the Yemeni regime and its cooperation in the fight against terror have been greatly undone following the release of Jamal Al-Badwi. This is why the US has been relentlessly demanding his extradition. Yemen feels the request is not constitutionally possible and might incite a serious reaction from the public. Likewise, Yemen has accelerated its demands concerning the release of its prisoners in Guantanamo, in addition to Mohammed al-Moyad and Mohammed Zaid, both serving jail sentences in the U.S. following their conviction on terrorism charges.

The maneuvering between the two sides is acceptable up to this point. However, the appearance and swift departure of Al-Banna in court this way is an indication of a serious crisis in the Yemeni-U.S. cooperation in the war on terror.

By this move, the Yemeni regime wants to send a strong message to the U.S., which has been relentlessly asking for the extradition of Al-Badwi, who was convicted in the USS Cole bombing case.

Al-Badwi appeared in a similar way in Aden, enjoying full freedom late last year, much to U.S. dismay. This is not a manipulation but challenge to the U.S., using some of the most dangerous instruments: Al-Qaeda and terrorism. It's like playing with fire. This harms not only U.S. interests but also hurts Yemen's reputation and interests. The two men were both convicted by a Yemeni court and escaped from prison in 2006.

This incident shows there have been mistakes in keeping all agreements in fighting terror a top secret between the security people in Yemen and the U.S. government, without involving all political forces in this exercise.

Al-Banna, who was convicted to 10 years in prison during the preliminary hearings, said openly before the court that he did not commit any crime and that he surrendered to President Saleh. Yes, to the president - but not to the government.

The Yemen-U.S. cooperation in the fight against terror in most cases has involved institutions rather than individuals. Even former U.S. deputy head of mission at the U.S. embassy in Yemen, Nabil Khoury, once underscored the importance institutionalizing security cooperation between his country and Yemen. The security relationship should be transparent and people should feel that their cooperation with the U.S. is not just a kind of subjection to blackmail and fright as it is understood by many people now, but a strategy that serves Yemen's interests.

For responses based on individual temperament in such serious things like terrorism and with such a superpower like the U.S. is very serious and might jeopardize the national security of the country large. Hey guys, this game isn't played with tribal sheikhs. This is the U.S. and therefore the consequences of this game should be considered.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Managing Editor
Amel Al-Ariqi

Feature Editor
Mohammed Al-Jabri

Copy Editor Sub-Editor
Dana Patterson Sarah Wolff

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Senior Reporter
Ismail Al-Ghabri

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff
Al-Sharif, Amira Thabet, Hamed
Mojalli, Almgidat

Offices

Aden Bureau:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed

Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596

Fax: +967 (2) 347056

Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Abdullah

Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,

Telefax: +967 (4) 217157

P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz

Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Subscription rates:

Individuals: YR 7,000

Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000

Foreign companies/organizations: \$ 80

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices

Yemen Press Review



Al-Thawri Weekly, Mouthpiece of Yemeni Socialist Party
Thursday, February 28

Top Stories

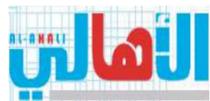
- U.S. Administration slams Yemen for releasing one of FBI wanted suspects
- Aden hosts function for documenting political assassination incidents since 1994
- Demise of YSP leader results in postponing a prospective demonstration in Hadramout
- Sana'a releases two of Sa'ada war prisoners, Al-Eshteraki.net publish names of freed inmates
- Thousands of teachers hold protests nationwide over poor living conditions
- Social mediation ends tensions in Radfan
- Marib citizens press government to fulfill development and political demands

The Marib Forum's Higher Staff call on all Marib citizens to hold a meeting in Al-Suheil area on March 7 after the local authority and governorate's leadership refused to meet a list of development and political demands made up by a popular rally's consensus last November, the weekly reported. It instructed citizens on Monday to carry with them food, drinks and any basic necessities so that they can continue their protest until their demands are met.

The forum's higher staff advised citizens how to claim their confiscated dignity and sacrifice all they have for defending their rights and legal demands. "You have to bear in mind

that your march must continue without halt in order for your governorate to get development projects, and enjoy security and stability. You are also needed to demonstrate a strong determination if you want to have your demands met," it went on to say.

The forum's higher staff sent out a letter to President Saleh containing as many as 22 demands, which were listed via a consensus reached at a popular rally staged last November.



Al-Ahali Independent Political Weekly
Tuesday, February 26

Top Stories

- Government allows Houthis to retain their heavy arms, supports their shia sect
- Joint Meeting parties discuss federalism option in National Rescue Program
- First league for Yemeni judges established in Sana'a
- President Saleh undergoes medical checkups in Germany
- 3 million Yemeni people infected with Bilharzias
- Influential government officials depredate plots of land belonging to Mahra fishermen

The weekly reported on its front page that local councilors and other executive officials in the Mahrah governorate plundered plots of lands belonging to simple fishermen, adding that the plunderers were helped by other government officials working for the Mahra-based branch of the General Authority for Lands, Surveys and Urban Planning.

According to the weekly, it obtained documents revealing that the plots of land were shared among the son of the branch general manager and his deputy and driver, his nephew, niece and other relatives, as well as local councilors and executive officials in the relevant office.

The newspaper continued that the same documents denounced behavior of the local authority in the governorate since it failed to provide adequate protection for simple fishermen's plots of lands.

These fishermen obtained the plots in question as a compensation for what they suffered during rehabilitation of the Shahr Port Cornish, which damaged their equipment and tools. "The relevant authorities in the governorate aided influential officials to grab lands approved as a compensation for the damage we suffered during the Cornish rehabilitation process, thereby depriving us of any compensation," some fishermen were quoted as saying. "We have been for a long time claiming the government to compensate us. And now, having our compensations approved, we turned to claim the local authority as well as the General Authority for Lands, Surveys and Urban Planning to help us regain our depredated property," the weekly attributed to Mahra fishermen as saying in their complaint.



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, February 28

Top Stories

- Education Minister admits arrest of

- 14 suspects charged with selling schoolbooks
- Yemeni Journalists Syndicate plans to speak with International Federation of Journalists with regard to cartoon reprinting
- Supreme Judicial Council Chairman criminalizes partisan activities
- HOOD launches a draft judicature amendment law
- Academics claim government should spread human rights culture
- Parliament constitutes committee to investigate Ja'ashin locals' complaints following their mass exodus to Sana'a

Yemeni Parliament formed a committee on Wednesday to investigate grievances of Al-Jaashin citizens and their complaints against the influential Sheikh Mohammed Mansour, the weekly reported, adding that the committee could not do anything against the influential tribal leader. It continued that Tens of citizens of Al-Jaashin district, Ibb, held Wednesday a sit-in before Parliament protesting volitions practiced against them by a powerful sheikh who is also a member of the Shura Council.

Protesters raised slogans demanding Parliament to intervene and put an end to abuses, according to Al-Sahwa.net's correspondent. Abdul-Rahman Barman, one of Hood Organization staff members, said that the protestors would direct a letter to the parliament in which they would detail the so-called Sheikh's crimes committed against them.

He accused the sheikh of committing constitutional crimes, asking Parliament to immediately investigate him, indicating that among the crimes practiced by Al-Jaashin Sheikh are imprisonment of citizens in private jails, levying taxes on locals, banning travels and confiscating their

lands and livestock.

Last month, Mansour arrested two teachers while on duty at their school and put them in solitary confinement as they refused to give him documents of their own land. In late February, about 70 families were forced to flee their homes by Mansour because they refused to pay a collective amount of three million riyals (US \$15,000) of zakat (an annual alms payment) to him. They said they had already paid zakat to the local authority.

The villagers were forced to camp in a nearby deserted area with few provisions for seven days. This sheikh is the same man who put a parliamentary candidate from the socialist party in jail simply because he decided to run against his son. He wanted the people to vote only for one candidate, his son.



26 September Weekly, Organ of Yemen Army
Thursday, February 28

Top stories

- Mediation committee continues effort to end sedition and enhance peace in Sa'ada
- Yemeni delegation in New York signs an agreement to establish financial market
- GPC MP: Opposition's escapism from dialogue may delay upcoming parliamentary elections
- Teachers nationwide receive salary raises this month
- German Chancellor confirms support for Yemen's democracy and development
- Third Yemeni Satellite Channel 'Sheba' to be officially launched in

this March

The weekly reported that President Saleh and German Chancellor Angela Merkel held on Wednesday Yemeni-German talks and reviewed mutual relations and means of increasing German support to Yemen's democracy and development.

Both sides also tackled developments in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Somalia, African Horn, Iranian nuclear file and efforts of combating terror.

According to the weekly, Saleh highlighted the level of mutual relations and partnership between Yemen and Germany, and the latter's support for democracy and development in Yemen, stressing the necessity of Germany playing an integral role in supporting Yemen at the bilateral level and the European Union level.

On her part, Merkel underscored the good relations between the two friendly countries and democratic experiment in Yemen, confirming her country's commitment to support Yemen's development and democracy and offer assistance in other areas of security, terrorism combating, and technical and vocational education.

The Yemeni leader also emphasized the necessity of assessing peace in the Middle East, setting up a Palestinian independent state, and supporting Arab Peace Initiative concerning Lebanon for speeding up election of the country's president and protecting its unity, security and stability.

He called on Germany to play an active role for reducing sufferings of Palestinian people as a result of Israeli aggression and blockade of Gaza Strip, adding that the international community should be responsible for pressing Israel to abide by any international resolutions concerning Arab-Israeli conflict.

“What is the Point of Kuwait?”

By: Mshari Al-Zaydi

What is the point of Kuwait? This is a popular phrase in Saudi Arabia with interesting origins behind it. The story goes that a young man living in Qassim, central Saudi Arabia, became fed up of the social and religious aspects of his environment especially since he would be woken up every day in the early hours to take part in the Fajr prayer at the mosque. So he decided to immigrate to Kuwait, which is more relaxed. After a tiring journey and upon his arrival, he attempts to get some sleep when there is sudden knock on the door. "Wake up; it's time to pray Fajr." With disappointment, the young man says, "What's the point of Kuwait then?"

Regardless of the authenticity behind this story, away from any religious debate or discussion on the openness or seclusion of Kuwait or Qassim, I remembered this lucid story as I observed what is currently taking place in Kuwait and the local concerns there. The situation is somewhat odd to the extent that it brings this popular phrase to mind.

The Kuwaitis are occupied with the issue of gender segregation at universities; some present themselves as the preservers of virtue whilst others believe that parties that call for gender segregation are fanatics. However, the debate barely reached its peak when it was overshadowed by the case of the two Shia members of parliament, Adnan Abdul Samad and Ahmed Lari who eulogized the assassinated Hezbollah military leader Imad Mughniyeh who was murdered in Damascus, causing public outrage on the Kuwaiti streets.

Abdul Samad had delivered a heated speech during a rally in commemoration of Mughniyeh, speaking highly of him and absolving him of his role in terrorist activity that afflicted Kuwait throughout the 1980s. The angry public stated that Abdul Samad, Lari and the Kuwaiti

National Islamic Coalition, known as Hezbollah Kuwait by some, have stabbed the people of Kuwait in the back.

This unprecedented campaign caused the opposition Popular Action Bloc to which the two MPs belonged, and that was unable to overlook the campaign, to demand an apology from Abdul Samad and Lari to the Kuwaiti people. The two MPs had offered an explanatory statement but not an apology and so the Popular Action Bloc expelled the two MPs.

The issue did not end there. There were calls for the two MPs to be removed from parliament whilst others escalated the issue further and demanded that they would be denaturalized, imprisoned or exiled.

At this point the government intervened and the Minister of the Interior demanded that the MPs would be referred to public prosecution and this is what actually happened...yet the campaign against them continued. A media figure and a friend from Kuwait told me that the issue had reached dangerous levels among the general public. The issue began to focus on Shia versus Sunni.

This despicable sectarian issue was reinforced by parties that would benefit the most from such escalation whether for reasons affiliated to political enmity, or in the interest of a certain political party or of fundamentalist Sunni parties that antagonize Shia for reasons related to creed.

Personally, I believe that the eulogy that Abdul Samad, Lari and the National Islamic Coalition had given in praise of Mughniyeh was a mistake that they should be reprimanded for especially by Kuwaitis who were directly afflicted by the evil acts of Mughniyeh whether his actions were instigated by the Dawa, Jihad or Hezbollah parties, as all they are all synonymous. I believe that Abdul Samad and Lari were motivated by ideology and mere partisan tendencies.

They were completely focused on the political Shia ideology over

anything else.

I do not regard Mughniyeh as a saint or a hero; rather I think he is a more complicated version of Osama Bin Laden owing to his extensive ties to the Syrian and Iranian intelligence units. This is one issue, but the transformation of the campaign against the two MPs into a campaign against the Shia of Kuwait is something else. Perhaps this collective campaign will be more harmful.

Here we must clearly differentiate between individual responsibility and collective responsibility. The fact that Abdul Samad and Ahmed Lari had adopted the same attitude towards Hezbollah and participated in a rally that commemorated Imad Mughniyeh does not mean that the Shia of Kuwait would act in the same way or share the same beliefs.

And even if this is the position of a large number of Shia, this should not invalidate the important history of the Shia in Kuwait. The Shia stood side by side with the Sunnis in defending Kuwait, for example in fighting the occupying army of Saddam Hussein in 1990 and this caused sectarianism to subside after the liberation of the country, and harmony prevailed.

However, after the American invasion of Iraq, the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003 and the Shia assuming the largest share of power in government, sectarianism reared its ugly head once again. This caused some Shia movements in Kuwait to restate their demands including recognizing Ashoura as an official holiday and establishing more Husseiniyat.

Such demands were considered dangerous by Sunni fundamentalists; a number of young men attacked a Shia mosque in Al Jahra, 7 October 2005.

The status of the Shia in Kuwait has always been affected by the Iran-Iraq milieu and major events that took place in the Gulf region and particularly Kuwait. The history behind the relationship between Shia forces and political life in Kuwait

runs deep.

Most prominently, there was the parliamentary crisis of 1938 when some Sunni traders and politicised Kuwaitis conflicted with the government of Kuwait during the reign of Sheikh Ahmed al Jaber whilst the majority of Kuwaiti Shia supported the authorities.

Moreover, when the Battle of Al Jahra broke out between the Ikhwan and Kuwait in 1920, one of most prominent Shia religious references Sheikh Qazwini and his followers offered their support [to Kuwait] according to Ahmed al Daej (Al Watan Newspaper, 20 February 2008) quoting Hussein al Sheikh Khalaf Khazaal.

He also quoted another historian, Seif Marzouq al Shamlan who claimed that some Shia, Iranians specifically, asked the British commissioner not to join the battle but he refused.

Some members of the Kuwaiti Shia community established themselves in the fields of finance and business during Kuwait's prosperous years. Some of them assumed important ministerial positions and served Kuwait in the best way possible. The Shia include liberals and normal fundamentalists who are not interested in creating movements (for example the Mirza Ahqaqi Movement or the "Hasawiya" Shia who refused to support the Khomeini revolution in Iran on the basis that they are Kuwaitis, according to researcher Dr. Falah al Mederas in his study about Shia movements in Kuwait); they also include revolutionary fundamentalists. In short, they are like any other group: they include rightists, leftists and centrists.

At the end of the day, they constitute an important component of Kuwait however some people insist on adopting a collective sectarian approach towards events and standpoints and this is unfair and hazardous. Collective judgments cause a neutral person in any movement to feel that he is antagonized simply because he is

Sunni or Shia and this is a primitive method of thinking that dominates collective thought in our Arab world.

In an interesting article entitled 'Secrets of the Eulogy Campaign' [Asrar Hamlat Ata'bin] by the Kuwaiti writer Abdul Latif al Daej that appeared in the Qabas newspaper, he discussed the positions of some Salafist and Ikhwan representatives as well as [members of] the Popular Bloc and others who praised Hassan Nasrallah and the heroism that the party demonstrated in the 2006 war with Israel during a rally in support of Hezbollah that was held in Irada Square, 21 July 2006.

Speakers such as the Salafist MP Waleed al Tabtabai commended Hezbollah and its master.

Al Daej stated that those who call for patriotism and claim that the Shia MPs who eulogized Mughniyeh are traitors, are part of Sunni fundamentalist movements that supported or partially supported Osama Bin Laden, the Taliban and Zarqawi in Iraq.

This is in spite of the fact that the "Asood al Jazeera" [Lions of the Gulf] movement was a direct product of Bin Laden and Al Qaeda, so what kind of patriotism are they talking about? The issue here is simply related to exploitation of the concept [of patriotism].

How can we replace what's positive with something negative? How can primitive sectarian political motives and instincts dominate the scene in Kuwait; a scene that was a model for the Gulf and was admired and appreciated by the people of the Gulf owing to the tolerance and development that it demonstrated?

Had it not been for the storm caused by Abdul Samad and Lari in eulogizing Mughniyeh, we would have been discussing the statement by the Ikhwan about the dangers of free mixing between genders which, along with the sectarian fanaticism that is demonstrated today, forces us to ask, "What's the point of Kuwait then?"

Source: www.asharqalawsat.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

ADNAN OILFIELD SERVICES WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE TO ALL OIL & GAS COMPANIES THAT THE UNDERMENTIONED PERSONS ARE NO LONGER REPRESENTING OUR COMPANY AND THEIR SERVICES HAVE BEEN TERMINATED:

1. MATHEEN AHMED CHILMI - NATIONALITY INDIAN
2. TABREEZULLAH - NATIONALITY INDIAN
3. MOHAMMED SANUALLA - NATIONALITY INDIAN

ADNAN OILFIELD SERVICES SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL DEALING CONCERNING THE ABOVEMENTIONED PERSONS.

Kosovo as "Muslim State in Europe"

False fears and false hopes

The declaration of independence in Kosovo has brought a new nation to Europe, with a population that is 90 per cent Muslim. Islam, however, has no influence on the country's politics. Balkans and Kosovo expert Konrad Clewing explains why

The newest member in the community of states, Kosovo, brings with it an assorted baggage of hopes and joys, but just as much in the way of troubles and worries.

Hope is centred on the belief that a line has finally been drawn under the long-standing territorial conflict between the country's Albanian majority and Serbia – a struggle that has taken a heavy toll on both sides. Joy has been in evidence mainly in Kosovo itself, where February 17th's declaration of independence was greeted by scenes of delighted celebration among 95 per cent of the population.

Trouble, meanwhile, has been brewing in Belgrade and in Serbia, where the feeling is that the country has been robbed of a part of its territory.

The worries are worldwide and centred on the possible repercussions for international law if it should turn out that a precedent has now been set with regard to the right of self-determination of peoples at the expense of national law where territorial integrity is concerned.

There is worry, too, about the potential consequences for international diplomacy, about the new state's feared lack of viability, about the repercussions for Serbia – and about the emergence of Kosovo as a "Muslim state".

Islamist terror or democratised Islam?

Here, in the middle of Europe, a future stronghold of global Islamism is being nurtured, which will serve as a springboard for Islamist terror. So, at least, runs one argument that is finding favour not only in Belgrade, but also in neighbouring countries such as Romania, as well as on German Internet forums, for example.

There are also very different hopes being aired with regard to "Muslim Kosovo". In the Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper of February 20, for example, Avi Primor, former Israeli ambassador to Germany set out his vision of how Kosovo could become the first truly democratic, secular Muslim country in a Western sense, as well as becoming a model for the entire Islamic world and for Muslim minorities in Western Europe.

The US government is hoping, as it did ten years ago when it gave its support to the Bosnian Muslims, that its actions in Kosovo will show to Muslims all over the world that Washington is by no means anti-Muslim.

Kosovo's Muslim majority

But both the worries and the hopes that are circulating over the "Muslim state" of Kosovo are wide of the mark. It is certainly true that over ninety per cent of the population of Kosovo consider themselves Muslims or at least as people of a Muslim background. The Kosovar Albanians, who make up around ninety per cent of the population, fall almost entirely into this category, a small Roman Catholic minority notwithstanding.

Among the local minorities only the Serbs are non-Muslim. The smaller groupings of Turks, Bosnians, other Slavic-speaking Muslims and Romanians, on the other hand, are all, in the traditional sense, followers of Islam.

A national rather than a religious project

Contrary to the illusions harboured by the international community operating there, however, the state of Kosovo is not primarily a multi-ethnic country and the state project that is "Kosovo" certainly cannot be properly understood as anything other than an Albanian national project.

In paragraph 2 of its independence declaration, this state is already referring to itself not only as "democratic,"

but also as "secular".

And the contradiction inherent in the spectacle of Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi being accompanied by Mufti Naim Tërnavë at the televised announcement that preceded the declaration of independence on February 17th, was one that was more apparent than real.

Because, while Thaçi was flanked by the Mufti on one side, the Catholic bishop of the diocese of Kosovo was on the other. It was a gesture clearly intended to provide a vivid counter image to offset the tendency among Serbs to equate Albanians with "dangerous" Muslims

Nation before religion

The scene does point to something fundamental, however. It is not just the case that Kosovo Muslims are generally and rightly regarded as not being particularly religious, or that strict observance of Muslim beliefs and practices is a rarity in the country, or that the mosques are usually to be found deserted, with hardly a visitor in sight.

No, it is also the case that since in its earliest beginnings in the late Ottoman period, modern Albanian nation-building has been based to a very large extent, both within and beyond Albanian national territory, on the idea that the nation must take precedence over religious belief.

One of the foundations of this nation-building, that has taken place in a religious environment around eighty per cent Muslim (Sunni and various Sufi groups) and twenty per cent Christian (orthodox in the south, Catholic in the north of the Albanian language area), was, and is, that there is no Muslim core to the nation, no fringe of non-Muslim minorities that are at best tolerated.

In this respect, it appears that Albania really is a special case in the Muslim world. Whenever religious loyalty has endangered or shown signs of endangering national loyalty, the defenders of national Albanianhood and the Albanian societies have taken to the barricades to ensure that religion knows its proper place. In this sense the Albanians are not a "Muslim" nation at all, that is to say, not a nation dominated by the religion.

It is much more the case that all three (or four) traditional confessions are seen as equally national Albanian (or during the period of the atheist communist dictatorship as equally anti-national).

Organised Albanian religion

The representatives of organised Albanian Islam, which is spread over Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia, express themselves in national rather than religious terms when referring to Kosovo.

On his first visit to the new Kosovo, or more precisely to the Islamic community of the new neighbouring state, Reis ul Ulema of Macedonia, Sulejman Rexhepi, passed on his congratulations on the independence of the "new Albanian state", which he praised as the realisation of a "centuries old dream whose fulfilment the Albanian people deserved". No mention here of Islam or Muslims.

And although, since 1999, Arab money has been increasingly in evidence as a source of pressure or incentive towards the promulgation of "Middle East" style Muslim attitudes in Kosovo, it is unlikely that this will make any serious inroads against the dominance of nationalism in the coming years.

Looking ahead

Reassuring for "Europe". At the same time, however, the role model function attributed to an "Islamic" community that is hardly discernible as such, is unlikely to be of any significance. And whether the American support for



Independence Day in Kosovo. The region was under Ottoman rule for almost 500 years, up until 1912. In February Kosovo declared independence from the Republic of Serbia.

Kosovo will do anything to improve the standing of the US with Muslims in the rest of the world must also remain doubtful. The Muslim component of the

Kosovo question, then, remains marginal.

Most of all, perhaps, it is likely that the secular majority of Kosovo's

Muslims may just succeed in making some of their European neighbours begin to wonder whether Islam really is as all-pervasive an influence on the life

and political attitudes of all Muslims as people here like to think.

Konrad Clewing
© Qantara.de 2008

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of UNAIDS the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions.

1-Post Title: Finance/ Administrative Assistant

Responsibilities:

- Provides assistance with regards to the implementation of UNAIDS activities: develops, supports and assists in the organization of the meetings and activities of the UN Team Group on HIV/AIDS, assists in the organization of national and international seminars, workshops, training sessions, prepares and coordinates field visits for the missions in cooperation with programme, NGOs and government departments, observes protocol procedures in preparation and during the high level meetings. The primary role of the National UNAIDS Country Officer is to support the joint UN response to HIV and AIDS at country level, particularly through facilitating and strengthening the links between the UN system, government, civil society, and people living with HIV.
- Maintains financial records and assures accuracy of budget lines, records, receipts, payments, balances, expenditures and other data for day-to-day transactions, controls UNAIDS Yemen expenditures using UNDP monthly reports, prepares monthly recurring reports and special reports as required for budget planning and audits.
- Processes contracts, agreements and payments to temporary recruited staff i.e. drivers, interpreters, secretaries, consultants for the period of work/replacement.
- Monitors financial documents to record and reconcile expenditures, balances, payments, statement of accounts and other records for the day-to-day transactions and reports, identifies discrepancies in accounts and finds advice on the necessary corrective measures, selects and enters data from a wide variety of documents, verifying accuracy and by checking sources, making necessary calculations and assuring inclusion of all relevant data.

Qualification:

- Completion of a Higher Education, preferably in Social Sciences.
- Ability to follow instructions and understand UN and UNAIDS procedures, rules and regulations
- Ability to operate PC and other office equipment.
- Must be conscientious, experienced, preferably with experience working in programmes/projects pertaining to HIV/AIDS issues.
- Excellent managerial skills, experience in implementing projects in coordination with governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Experience of working unsupervised, ability to work under pressure, prioritize work and use personal initiative.
- Fluency in English and Arabic is compulsory combined with good writing skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at:

<http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed terms of reference of the positions and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 15 2008

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking energetic and skilled Yemeni nationals to join our core team. Following are the position we seek candidates for:

I. Programme Officer

Key Functions:

- Development and implementation of programme strategies within the poverty portfolio
- Effective management and oversight of the poverty portfolio, focusing on quality control from formulation to implementation of the poverty interventions
- Creation of strategic partnerships and implementation of the resource mobilization strategy
- Provision of top quality policy advice services to the Government and facilitation of knowledge building and management.

Required Qualifications:

- Master's Degree or equivalent in Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, Political Sciences, Social Sciences or related field.
- 2 years of relevant experience at the national or international level in providing management advisory services.
- Hands-on experience in design, monitoring and evaluation of development projects.
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages, experience in handling of web based management systems.

To learn more about the above position, please visit our website (www.undp.org/ye) and go to Vacancies (under about UNDP Yemen) for details and instructions on how to apply.

Only candidates with the specified education and years of experience as indicated in the Job Descriptions will be considered. We look forward to receiving your application. (Only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Deadline for receipt of applications is **15 March 2008**

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



((وبشر الصابرين الذين اذا أصابتهم مصيبة قالوا إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون))

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة إلى:

الأستاذ الدكتور/عبد العزيز المقالح

في وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى /

شقيقه /رضوان صالح المقالح

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم

أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان ..

ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم

المعزون:

كافة موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

SECHANG STEEL

Capable supplier specialized in shearing & slitting on customer's demand

- Cold rolled steel sheet & coil
- Hot-dipped galvanized steel sheet & coil
- Electro galvanized steel sheet & coil
- Hot-dipped aluminized steel sheet & coil
- Hot-dipped precoated steel sheet & coil
- Galvalume / Alu-zinc alloy coated steel & coil



SECHANG STEEL CO., LTD.

#753-2 Sasang-gu, Hagjang-dong 617-843 Pusan, Korea
 Tel : 82 51 323 6564
 Fax : 82 51 311 4297
 E-mail : scscl@scsteel.co.kr
 Homepage : www.scsteel.co.kr



USAID
 FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FINANCIAL MANAGER

A full time position is now available for a Financial Manager for a project funded by USAID. Under the supervision of the project's Chief of Party (COP), the Financial Manager will be responsible for the administration of financial transactions and will ensure that all records kept are in accordance with USAID regulations, as well as those of the implementing agency, for this five-year USAID-funded project. This position will be located in Sana'a and may require travel to project sites across Yemen.

Among other duties the Financial Manager will, with oversight from the COP and Deputy COP:

1. Perform financial transactions, prepare computerized monthly financial reports using both financial software and Excel spreadsheet applications, and disburse/monitor petty cash.
2. Engage in budget charging, cash flow management, budget preparation, and other financial management tasks.
3. Ensure project compliance with requirements of the U.S. government, Yemeni government, and implementing agency.

General Requirements:

1. Bachelors Degree in one of the following or related fields: Accounting, Business, Business Administration and Finance required; Masters preferred.
2. Related successful work experiences for a minimum of five years.
3. Demonstrated knowledge of financial management.
4. Bilingual proficiency in Arabic and English.
5. Previous experience with International NGOs is preferred. Knowledge of USAID or other international donor regulations, experience supervising staff, implementing the financial aspects of project activities, working with education organizations and providing financial oversight on large donor-funded activities is highly preferred.
6. Excellent writing and communication skills; proficiency in utilizing MS applications, Word, Excel, Outlook and Internet. Prior experience with Quickbooks or other accounting software is preferred.
7. Ability to work harmoniously on a team of host country nationals and expatriates.
8. Solid interpersonal communication skills.

Qualified candidates should send only their (a) CV's and (b) cover letters in English no later than one week after the date of this announcement to one of the following addresses:

Email: oneil@aed.org
 Mail: P.O. Box 14793, Sana'a --Yemen
 Fax: (01) 494507

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
H.E. ALI ABDULLAH SALEH
 THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN



Tourism and Real Estate Investment Conference

Hadramout, Al-Mukalla, March 26 - 27, 2008

Main Topics:

Prospects of Tourism and Real Estate Investment ■ Tourism Development trends
 Investment opportunities in Tourism and Real Estate ■ Real Estate financing
 and property ownership ■ Success stories of international investments
 in Tourism Development

Diamond Sponsors



Platinum Sponsor



Silver Sponsors



Organizers



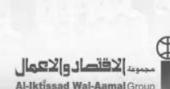
Hadramout Chamber of
 Commerce and Industry



Ministry of Tourism



General Investment Authority



Al-Iktissad Wal-Amal Group

In cooperation with:
 Local Authority/ Hadramout
 Hadramout University for Science and Technology

Yemen: Hadramout Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Tel: +967 5 313105 Al Mukalla: +967 733905927, +967 712296148
 Lebanon: Tel: +961 1 780200 Fax: +961 1 780206 Saudi Arabia: Tel: +966 1 2932769 Fax: +966 1 2931837
 Jeddah: Tel: +966 26141855 Fax: +966 26519465 United Arab Emirates: Tel: +971 4 2941441 Fax: +971 4 2941035
 Cairo: mobile: +20109338373 Fax: +2024955472 Kuwait: Tel: +965 2409552 Fax: +965 2409553
 Qatar: Tel: +974 4877442 Fax: +974 4873196 Email: conferences@iktissad.com, www.iktissad.com

Environment minister: Yemen is ready to apply the Clean Development Mechanism DNA secretariat: There are promising CDM projects for Yemen

Last year, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a resolution to establish a Designated National Authority (DNA) to approve projects under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, or CDM. The Yemen Times interviewed Minister of Water and Environment, Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani, chairman of the CDM Approval Board, and Dr. Lia Sieghart, the DNA secretariat, to find out more about the mechanism, the protocol and projects under it.

What is the Clean Development Mechanism?

Al-Eryani: The Clean Development Mechanism, or CDM, is a market-based mechanism created by the Kyoto Protocol offering certified emission credits in return for investment in sustainable development and emission-reducing projects in developing countries.

Under the CDM, projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute

missed!

What's the actual size of the carbon market, as set by the Clean Development Mechanism?

Sieghart: The CDM has seen exponential growth since the Kyoto Protocol came into effect in 2005, by the end of which only a few dozen projects had been registered. The end of 2007 marked a milestone with the issuance of the 100 millionth certified emission

Al-Eryani: Well, many countries find it difficult to maneuver within the regulatory framework of the Marrakesh Accords. There are many factors, many of which are country-specific, but many also repeatedly are reported alike, such as lack of understanding of CDM requirements, limited financial resources for training and allocating government personnel for project review and an absence of technical assistance from the donor community.

Is Yemen ready for this challenge?

Al-Eryani: It certainly is! Since mid-2006, the country has been experiencing a steep learning curve resulting in numerous tangible outputs and thereby receiving an enormous amount of international recognition.

In January 2007, the Yemeni Cabinet approved the Prime Minister's Resolution No. 238 regarding establishing a Designated National Authority to approve projects under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism. A ministerial decree

Yemen also was the first nation in the region to exhibit its CDM potential at the Global Carbon Expo. The Capital Secretariat recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MDG Carbon Facility to assess the CDM potential of the Sana'a landfill.

In which areas do you see the potential for CDM projects in Yemen?

Sieghart: We've identified a number of promising CDM projects for Yemen, including renewable energy sources,

reduced flaring and venting in the oil and gas sector, energy efficiency, landfill management, harnessing methane from wastewater and switching to less carbon-intensive fuel sources.

Where can one find out more about the CDM and Yemen?

Al-Eryani: I invite people to visit our www.cdm-yemen.org web site and use the tools provided there, as this web site contains a wide variety of information on the Kyoto Protocol, background

information on the CDM and the structure of Yemen's Designated National Authority, or DNA, as well as approval criteria and procedures. A CDM project portfolio are available for download. The page also contains a section on news and events, related links and a glossary.

Please also feel free to contact the DNA secretariat, the contacts for which can be found on the web site, if any assistance is required, as our people are there for the public.



Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani



Lia Sieghart

to sustainable development can earn saleable certified emission reductions, or CERs.

Countries such as Japan, France, Germany, the Netherlands and many more with an emission reduction or limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol can use CERs to meet part of their obligations under the protocol.

How did Yemen become involved in the Carbon market?

Al-Eryani: The carbon market has its foundational decisions made by governments at the national, regional and international levels. Parties to the Kyoto Protocol – one of which is Yemen – have created an international legal framework that fundamentally changes key economic parameters by limiting access to the global atmosphere. This gives economic value to emission reductions, creates economic incentives for investment in mitigation technology and is a catalyst for innovation to minimize the future costs of emission reductions.

This incentive isn't confined to just industrialized nations; developing countries can and are benefiting through the Clean Development Mechanism. Projects could access millions from carbon funds – an opportunity not to be

reduction credit.

Currently, more than 900 CDM projects are registered in 49 developing countries, while another 2,000 projects are in the registration pipeline. The CDM is expected to generate more than 2.6 billion CERs by the time the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends in 2012, each equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide.

Carbon Market or Carbon trade is an administrative approach used to control pollution by providing economic incentives for achieving reductions in the emissions of pollutants. Countries that need to increase their carbon emissions must buy credits from those who pollute less. The transfer of allowances is referred to as a trade. In effect, the buyer is paying a charge for polluting, while the seller is being rewarded for having reduced emissions by more than was needed. Thus, in theory, those that can easily reduce emissions most cheaply will do so, achieving the pollution reduction at the lowest possible cost to society.

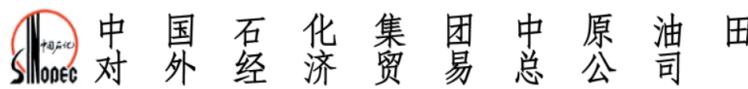
Where are most of these projects located?

Sieghart: Most projects are registered with China as a host country, followed by India, Mexico, Brazil, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. India and China have been particularly early movers and have grasped investment opportunities provided by the CDM.

Despite high demand to utilize the CDM and witnessing a rapidly increasing number of registered projects, the number of host countries

playing a vital role remains very limited. Only recently has the Middle East begun realizing its potential, with Qatar registering a project and the United Arab Emirates currently evaluating 20 projects. The region has much more to offer and to gain in the various sectoral scopes addressed.

What hampers an even distribution of projects?



ZPEB (Yemen)

Performing Training for Local Employees and Expediting Yemenization Process in ZPEB Yemen

In order to carry out the policy for Yemenization implemented by the government of Yemen, ZPEB Yemen timely recruited local employees at the beginning of 2008 by publishing vacation announcement at the Yemen Times.

In order to enhance the understanding of ZPEB and heighten safety awareness, ZPEB Yemen seriously performed the orientation and training for newly recruited employees.

In addition, a safety training was performed on all aspects such as fire fighting, first aid, prevention of hydrogen sulfide and hazardous materials, use of personal protective equipment, STOPCARD system and HSE management system, etc.. By utilizing vivid pictures and action demonstration, the employees got certain perception on how to correctly operate safety equipment and devices while learning theoretical knowledge.

Through this training, all employees have been greatly benefited, especially for HSE training which will give them great help in safe operation during the work. In addition, they have been proud of being one of ZPEB employees after getting to



know the successful achievements made in ZPEB overseas projects and all expressed to work even harder and rigorously abide by various rules and regulations of the company.

The Training should be the most important work in the employee management for ZPEB in the year of 2008. ZPEB will carry out employee training programme to enhance safety consciousness and increase operation skills during both work and vacation.



الفداء الخيري السنوي

ANNUAL CHARITY Lunch

الخميس ١٣ مارس ٢٠٠٨
THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2008
المكان : فندق الموفنبيك
VENUE MÖVENPICK HOTEL
من الواحدة ظهراً حتى الخامسة
TIME FROM 1:00 P.M TO 5:00 P.M
سعر التذكرة : ٤٠٠٠ ريال
TICKET COSTS 4000 YR
السحب من : ٢:٣٠ إلى ٥:٠٠
RAFFLE FROM 3:30 P.M TO 5:00 P.M

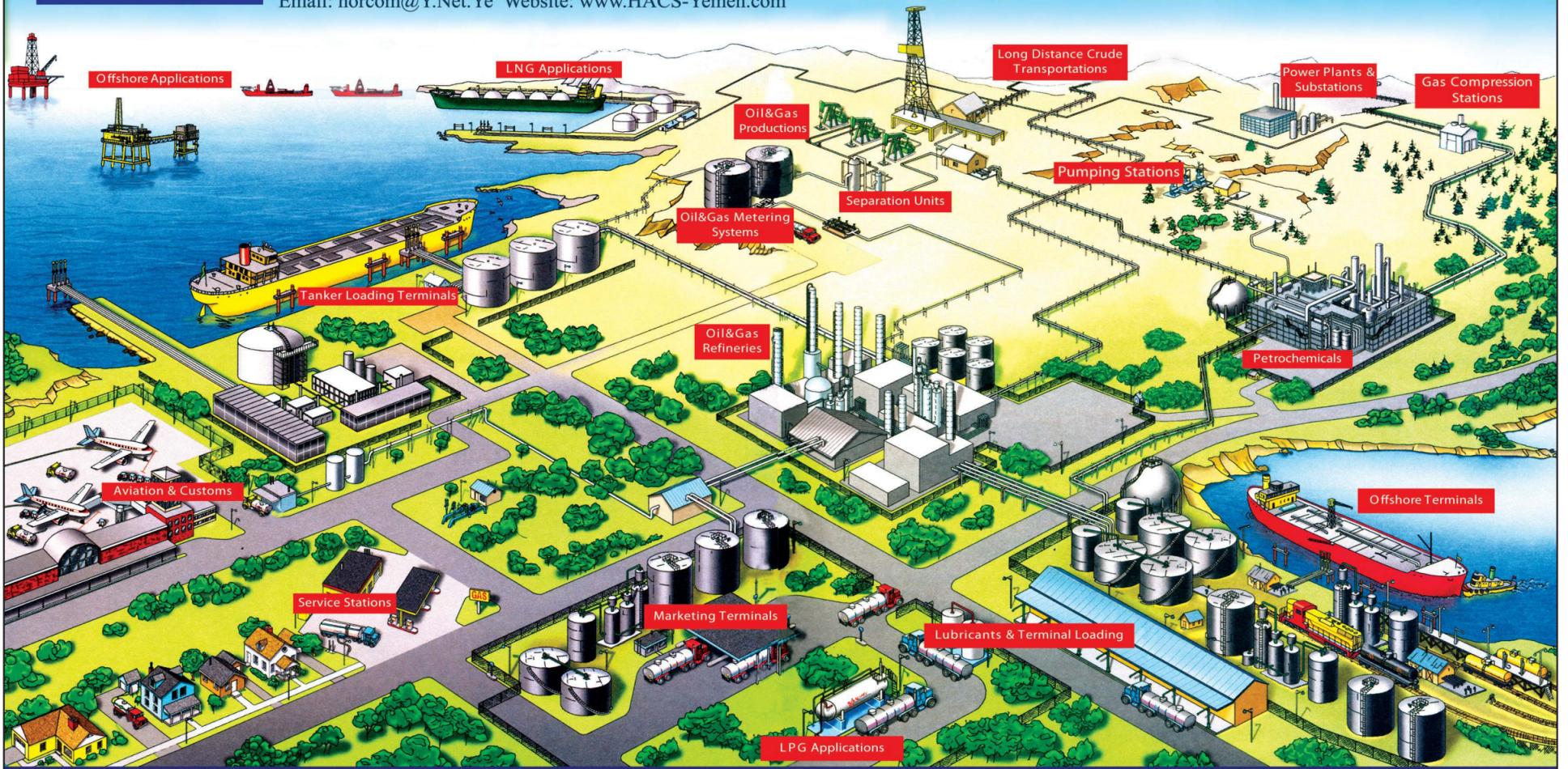


HORIZON AGENCIES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES (HACS)

P.O. Box : 15408 Sana'a , Republic of Yemen
 Tel : + 967 - 1 - 421508 / 421532 Fax : + 967 - 1 - 421514
 Email: horcom@Y.Net.Ye Website: www.HACS-Yemen.com

Served Markets

Typical Market Applications



AGENT FOR:



مستشفى جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا
University of Science & Technology Hospital



**للعناية
 بمرضاكم
 وجهة
 واحدة**



ملتزمون بالتميز

صنعا - شارع الستين - هاتف: ٥٠٠٠٠٠ - ٤٧١١٢٢ - ص.ب. ١٣٠٦١

www.usthyemen.com

الشكل الجديد وينفس الطعم



الطاقة الحقيقية

MCTCO www.metcotrading.com

Syrian singer Asalah Nasri to the Yemen Times: Despite threats, I insisted to visit Yemen

Asalah Nasri is a prominent Syrian singer and daughter of the late Mustafa Nasri, who was a reputed singer. Responding to threats by some Islamic extremists regarding her scheduled performance in Yemen, she stressed that in the past, she performed in Algeria, where conditions were just as dangerous and complicated. She says she has strong faith in God and isn't afraid of anyone or anything.

Nasri said that those who made the threats don't know the difference between singers who present real art and those who present cheap performances, ascertaining that despite the threats, she'll hold her concert in Yemen, praying that she'll be able to meet the expectations of fans who are anxious to attend her performance and hear her sing.

Various media outlets quoted a member of the Yemeni Parliament, who also is an Islamic extremist, as saying openly that Nasri's performance is undignified and against Islamic teachings, maintaining that her performance must be stopped at any cost.

Ahead of her visit to Yemen, the singer announced that she would donate half of the earnings from her Aden concert to children in Gaza and Yemeni children suffering from cancer.

After Nasri's superior performance at the Aden concert, **Mariam Saleh** of the Yemen Times' Taiz bureau conducted the following interview:

With which singers do you like to perform the "duyuto" (a type of singing)?

Most of the time, I like singing with famed Saudi singer, Mohammed Abdu Ghanim, as well as Iraqi, Kadhim Al-Saher, nicknamed "the Caesar of Arab song."



Asalah during the press conference.

In your opinion, what's your best song?

I'm very fond of "Ya, Majnoon" (Oh, madman) and "Mushtaqah" (I'm eager to see my lover). Both songs actually made me and other people happy and I usually am proud of myself while singing the latter, which has increased my popularity.

How do you select your songs' composers and writers?

This usually is based on my personal fondness for a song composer or writer. I mostly prefer that this person be my relative so that I can work with him. I also like my musical band made up mostly of those related to me in order for me to perform well.

Do you like joint performances and cooperation with Yemeni singers?

Of course, I like this and why not? I cordially invite any Yemeni singers to take part in a joint performance and serve Arab song in order to satisfy Arab audiences everywhere.

Why haven't you released a special album of your late father's songs, particularly since his songs were very nice?



Asalah during the concert.

This will be done, but after awhile. These days, I'm still in the beginning stages of imprinting my name upon the minds of Arab audiences. There are other projects similar to this, for instance, I'm thinking about producing a special album of sung tales for children. "Chained Dream I Want to Release" is one of the best recorded songs I've performed and its words were written by the Saudi poet Abdurrahman Bin Musa'id, while Ubadi Al-Jawhar, who is from the same country, composed the song.

How did you feel while performing in Aden?

It felt like I was among my own family, which increased my adoration for Aden and indeed all of Yemen. I also appreciated the dear audience, which enthusiastically and joyfully repeated what I said on Valentine's Day. I insisted on visiting Yemen, although I faced threats by some

How do you view Syrian singer Dreed Lahham?

For me, Lahham is pure happiness because I've been fond of his songs since I was a child. He has had a great influence on us and the way we perform today.

Having heard that you dislike Lebanese singer Nawal Al-Zughbi, is there any animosity or hatred between you?

I've never met Nawal Al-Zughbi in my life, so there's neither hatred nor friendship between us.

Will you visit Yemen again to participate in any future concerts?

Because I highly appreciate and respect Yemen and I have very nice memories from it, visiting again will top my future plans.

We've heard that you disagree with the late reputed poet Nazzar Qabbani, but is it possible for you to change your opinion of him?

I never met Qabbani in person. I only spoke with him by telephone. My relationship with him was like that of any other reader who is fond of his work. I disagree with his ideas because, according to him, a woman is nothing more than a body, thus, he pays no attention to her spirit and inner feelings.

What are the best moments for you?

The singer's profile:

Born May 15, 1969, Asalah Mustafa Nasri is a reputed Syrian singer who has won numerous awards and meritorious certificates in recognition of superior performance throughout her singing career.

Among her 25 awards, two are from the mayor of the U.S. city of Las Vegas and the governor of the state of New Jersey. In 1994, she won the "Singer of the Year" award, followed by other awards and certificates of merit from various Arab countries.

Nasri has been awarded 15 meritorious certificates from those countries where she has participated in concerts and artistic festivals. Following distribution of her album in 2005, she was named "Best Arab Female Singer."

Throughout her singing career, Nasri has produced 21 albums, most of which are available on the cassette market. She recently was awarded the plaque of Aden's First Artistic Festival after participating in the event accompanied by her husband, Egyptian director Tareq Al-Aryan.

Who do you think is the best singer in the Arab world?

Nice singers – whether men or women

– are plentiful, but as far as I'm concerned, Saudi singer Mohammed Abdu Ghanim tops the list of Arab singers.

Is there one individual whom you love the most?

In general, I'm one who loves being surrounded by people and friends. It's impossible for me to identify a particular individual I'm most fond of from among those around me because doing so may negatively impact my popularity. However, I can say that my late father was the only one I adored and loved most in my life.

Is it correct that famed television presenter George Kurdahi is the reason behind your divorce from ex-husband, Ayman Al-Dhahabi?

No, that isn't correct. George Kurdahi is a close friend and my relationship with him is based on mutual respect. You shouldn't form a bad impression of me having heard such a false and inaccurate story.

How do you view Syrian singer Dreed Lahham?

For me, Lahham is pure happiness because I've been fond of his songs since I was a child. He has had a great influence on us and the way we perform today.

Having heard that you dislike Lebanese singer Nawal Al-Zughbi, is there any animosity or hatred between you?

I've never met Nawal Al-Zughbi in my life, so there's neither hatred nor friendship between us.

Will you visit Yemen again to participate in any future concerts?

Because I highly appreciate and respect Yemen and I have very nice memories from it, visiting again will top my future plans.

We've heard that you disagree with the late reputed poet Nazzar Qabbani, but is it possible for you to change your opinion of him?

I never met Qabbani in person. I only spoke with him by telephone. My relationship with him was like that of any other reader who is fond of his work. I disagree with his ideas because, according to him, a woman is nothing more than a body, thus, he pays no attention to her spirit and inner feelings.

What are the best moments for you?

The singer's profile:

Born May 15, 1969, Asalah Mustafa Nasri is a reputed Syrian singer who has won numerous awards and meritorious certificates in recognition of superior performance throughout her singing career.

Among her 25 awards, two are from the mayor of the U.S. city of Las Vegas and the governor of the state of New Jersey. In 1994, she won the "Singer of the Year" award, followed by other awards and certificates of merit from various Arab countries.

Nasri has been awarded 15 meritorious certificates from those countries where she has participated in concerts and artistic festivals. Following distribution of her album in 2005, she was named "Best Arab Female Singer."

Throughout her singing career, Nasri has produced 21 albums, most of which are available on the cassette market. She recently was awarded the plaque of Aden's First Artistic Festival after participating in the event accompanied by her husband, Egyptian director Tareq Al-Aryan.

My best moments are at home with my children and performing, when I become like a little girl laughing and singing. In that place, I'm happier than you can imagine, particularly when there's direct interaction between me and the audience.

Some of your concert songs, such as "Ya Mal Al-Sham" (Sham's Property) and "Ya Ta'irah Tiri" (Oh Bird, Fly), are believed to have been recorded on tape, so why are they unavailable in the markets?

I'm still studying a proposed project in this regard and I'm due to sign a related contract soon. I have no doubts that such project will satisfy my fans and my audience. However, the idea requires a few months prior to being applied.

Do you get upset hearing other composers or singers perform your songs?

There's no reason why I should get upset. To the contrary, this makes me very happy.

Are you as tough as you seem?

I am tough, but at the same time, I'm kind. I'm stingy but also generous. I think I'm stingy in sharing my work if the audience doesn't deserve it, in which case I can't forgive. This is the persistent problem in my life, since I can't be an ideal character, except in my career.

Additionally, nobody in this world is perfect and the main problem in the Arab region is that those who admit their negatives and bad qualities are very few. Frankly speaking, my personality involves numerous bad qualities and my nature is temperamental or moody.

What achievements have you so far made in your career and where are you on the singing ladder?

I'm not a beginner in my career, nor am I an amateur. For the time being, I feel like I'm living in a world of singing. I'm a singer and I only recognize being a singer. I think I'm in the middle of the singing ladder [meaning seniority, popularity and/or performance].

Do you sing when you're happy or sad?

This mostly depends on my psychological state and my personal feelings. There are particular subjects relating to my own personal sadness or melancholy, as well as other subjects having to do with my own happiness or feeling joyful.

Can you tell us a career-related weakness?

The only weakness I suffer in my career is those songs I can hardly complete because such songs sometimes make me cry.

We've learned that you are a good reciter of the Qur'an. Thus far, how many times have you recited the Qur'an?

My strong relationship to the Qur'an began after my father died and this relationship continues until now. Desiring to reward myself, I did so by reciting the book.

If you weren't Syrian singing star Asalah, what would you like to be?

I would wish to be from Saudi Arabia because I adore and love the lifestyle and everyday behavior of Saudi people.

CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

BESSIE HEAD, An African Writer with a Thunder behind Her Ears

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Head, Bessie, African novelist, short-story writer, and journalist. Born on July 6, 1937, in Pietermaritzburg, a

city in eastern South Africa, Head was the product of a controversial union between a wealthy white South African mother and a black servant father during a time when interracial relationships were illegal. Her mother was mentally ill and therefore Head was put into the care of a devoutly Catholic African couple. Head's mother died when Head was only 6 years old, and at the age of 12 Head was sent to an Anglican boarding school for African girls near Durban. After successfully passing her Junior Certificate examination at the age of 16, she started a 2-year course for primary school teachers. Head began teaching in 1956 at the Clairwood Colored School in Durban. She taught for almost 2 years, but she did not enjoy her work and resigned in June 1958 to become a journalist. In the same year, Head moved to Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa, and became a freelance reporter at the "Golden City Post" newspaper. She moved to Johannesburg, city in northeastern South Africa, to write for the "Home Post" magazine in 1959. At this time, South Africa was severely divided over the issue of apartheid, and Head joined the "Pan-Africanist Congress" (PAC), a political party advocating a more militant approach in the struggle against apartheid. In 1960, Head was arrested for her PAC activities and was tortured; consequently, she tried to commit suicide. She returned to Cape Town and began to write again for the "Golden City Post" and after several months she started her own newspaper, "The Citizen", which expressed her strong pro-Africanist views. Head married a South African journalist in mid-1961, and from 1962 to 1964 she moved with her husband to different South African cities such as Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, and Pretoria.

Due to the deep-seated social and political tensions dividing South Africa along racial lines, Head decided to leave her country to live in another, more peaceful African country. She applied for a teaching post in Botswana in a village called Serowe and fortunately she was accepted. The South African government refused to give Head a passport, but instead allowed her a one-way exit permit. Head chose to leave South Africa, never to return, and in March 1964 she arrived in Serowe. She began her new career as a teacher in Tsheredi Khama Memorial Primary School, but after a short time she abandoned her post. In Botswana, Head worked in an agriculture business and as a typist. She also lived in the Botswanan cities of Palapye and Francistown, finally settling in Serowe in January 1969. During the first half of the 1970s Head fell into a

period of deep depression, and her spiritual visions and hallucinations became more frequent and extreme. Head was still a refugee in Botswana when she applied for citizenship in 1977, but she was refused until two years later when, without having submitted another request, she was unexpectedly granted Botswanan citizenship.

Head's literary writings cover many aspects of her personal experiences as a person of mixed race, growing up without a cohesive family in South Africa. Her works focus on issues of discrimination, refugees, radicalism, African history, poverty, and interpersonal human relationships. Although she claimed to be vehemently non-political in her actions, Head's writings dwell on injustice and oppression in South Africa's intensely divided political arena, as well as her hopes for social change and peace in the future. Head's writing also employs intense imagery to vividly describe the beauty found in both human and environmental nature. Head once said that she wrote best if she could hear the thunder behind her ears, and that literature must be a reflection of daily encounters with ordinary people.

During the early 1960s Head experimented with poetry and fiction, publishing a short story in "The New African" newspaper. "The Cardinals," her first short novel and the only novel Head ever set in South Africa, was published posthumously in 1993. In it she questions traditional notions of love, family, and genealogy. In her chosen rural haven of Serowe, she wrote novels and stories that earned her international recognition as one of Africa's most remarkable and individual writers. Her novel entitled "When Rain Clouds Gather" (1968) offers a genuine look at the rural African life, values, and obstacles to progress. In her novel "Maru" (1971), Head brilliantly combines a portrait of loneliness with a rich affirmation of the mystery and spirituality of life.

Head is best known for her novel "A Question of Power" (1973), the first part of which is autobiographical. The novel revolves around the life of a female expatriate living in Botswana and her attempts to make sense of the world around her. The novel is rich in symbolism and can be read with psychoanalytic theories in mind. She built her 1974 novel, "Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind," on the history of Serowe itself, tackling the lives and times of three of its eminent personalities. "The Collector of Treasures & Other Botswana Village Tales" (1977), a volume of short fiction, includes brief vignettes of traditional Botswanan village life and passionate attacks on African male chauvinism. Head's long historical and traditional novel, "A Bewitched Crossroad: An African Saga", appeared in 1984 after many years of research and complicated writing. Some of her other posthumously published works include "Tales of Tenderness and Power" (1989) and "A Woman Alone: Autobiographical Writings" (1990).

When she had just begun to attract real acclaim for her writing, Head passed away on April 17, 1986, in Serowe, Botswana, after suffering from hepatitis.



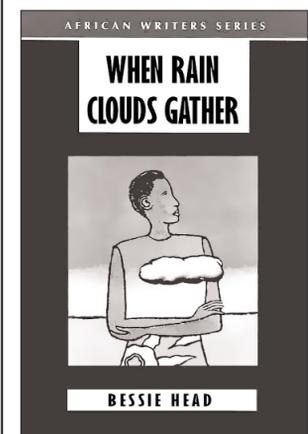
period of deep depression, and her spiritual visions and hallucinations became more frequent and extreme. Head was still a refugee in Botswana when she applied for citizenship in 1977, but she was refused until two years later when, without having submitted another request, she was unexpectedly granted Botswanan citizenship.

Head's literary writings cover many aspects of her personal experiences as a person of mixed race, growing up without a cohesive family in South Africa. Her works focus on issues of discrimination, refugees, radicalism, African history, poverty, and interpersonal human relationships. Although she claimed to be vehemently non-political in her actions, Head's writings dwell on injustice and oppression in South Africa's intensely divided political arena, as well as her hopes for social change and peace in the future. Head's writing also employs intense imagery to vividly describe the beauty found in both human and environmental nature. Head once said that she wrote best if she could hear the thunder behind her ears, and that literature must be a reflection of daily encounters with ordinary people.

During the early 1960s Head experimented with poetry and fiction, publishing a short story in "The New African" newspaper. "The Cardinals," her first short novel and the only novel Head ever set in South Africa, was published posthumously in 1993. In it she questions traditional notions of love, family, and genealogy. In her chosen rural haven of Serowe, she wrote novels and stories that earned her international recognition as one of Africa's most remarkable and individual writers. Her novel entitled "When Rain Clouds Gather" (1968) offers a genuine look at the rural African life, values, and obstacles to progress. In her novel "Maru" (1971), Head brilliantly combines a portrait of loneliness with a rich affirmation of the mystery and spirituality of life.

Head is best known for her novel "A Question of Power" (1973), the first part of which is autobiographical. The novel revolves around the life of a female expatriate living in Botswana and her attempts to make sense of the world around her. The novel is rich in symbolism and can be read with psychoanalytic theories in mind. She built her 1974 novel, "Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind," on the history of Serowe itself, tackling the lives and times of three of its eminent personalities. "The Collector of Treasures & Other Botswana Village Tales" (1977), a volume of short fiction, includes brief vignettes of traditional Botswanan village life and passionate attacks on African male chauvinism. Head's long historical and traditional novel, "A Bewitched Crossroad: An African Saga", appeared in 1984 after many years of research and complicated writing. Some of her other posthumously published works include "Tales of Tenderness and Power" (1989) and "A Woman Alone: Autobiographical Writings" (1990).

When she had just begun to attract real acclaim for her writing, Head passed away on April 17, 1986, in Serowe, Botswana, after suffering from hepatitis.



**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE**



كولوب COLOP
self-inking stamps
اختتام ذاتية التحبير

Exclusive Agent :
Thabet Son Corporation
مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة

Showroom Telefax 269924 - Sana'a - Mujahed St. - Beside Al-Basha Grocery



ASHIBAMI AGENCIES
For Stationery Supplies

المركز الرئيسي : صنعاء شارع الزبير
تلفون : 219054 - 530000
خدم : 429065 - 429555
E-mail: ashibami@y.net.ye
www.ashibami.com

1 DOLLAR

Khairya: Example of successful agri-business women



Khairya's farmlands stretch over 2.2 hectometers and planted with all kinds of grapes.

Khairya uses an old water pump.

By: Al-Miqdad Dahesh Mujalli

Khairya Al-Sarafi has been chosen as a good example for successful agri-business women in Yemen. The woman, 55, has wide farmlands stretching over 2.2 hectometers and planted with all kinds of grapes.

She was selected along with another two women by Ardinc (ARD), an American non-government organization.

The selection is part of ARD's series of events titled 'Raising Awareness about the Issues Facing Women in Agri-business', which is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The goal of the series is to draw attention to issues that are specific to women working in the field of agri-business and to engage the community in discussion about possible ways to overcome these issues.

Khairya inherited her land from her father many years ago. She has nine children. As her early life's circumstances were very difficult, she couldn't go to school, but she was determined to compensate for that in her children. "I have nine children, five daughters and four sons. Some of them finished studying at university while the others are still in school," Khairya said.

She decided to take full responsibility of her farm and thus help her children have a chance at education. She brought female laborers to help her work in the vineyards, preferring female laborers as they are of the same sex as her.

For her, farming was not her only job; she later decided to sell her products herself. The beginning, though,

was difficult. "I remember the first time I went to the market. I was shy and it was difficult for me to talk to men and negotiate with them on the prices of my products. But someone came and showed me how to market, negotiate and sell my products," Khairya explained.

With the passage of time, Khairya mastered the game and was able to attract many buyers. Khairya is never absent from the market in order not to lose her customers, and her customers don't buy grapes from anyone but her. "I always go to the market with my products and am never absent from the market, even on Eid holidays. For example, on the day of Eid, I receive visitors at home for a while and then I go to the market. My relatives don't

feel angry because they appreciate that I have a business and, as you know, business is business," said Khairya.

Khairya's sons help her in farming and selling products during school and university holidays, while one of her daughters, who is studying at the Faculty of Engineering, keeps records of expenditures, sales and interests. "I try my best not to distract my children from their studies because I want them to be educated. In return, they help me during holidays, when some of my sons go to the vineyards, others go with me to the market to sell products, and the girl keeps records of everything," Khairya added.

Khairya always tries to develop her business, but in the same field. In addition to the land that she inherited

from her father, she bought 22,000 meters of land. Also, she is now trying to buy a water pump for 12,000,000 riyals.

Despite the success that Khairya has achieved, she faces many difficulties. One of the most prominent problems is the price hikes of fuel and oil. "The main problem I face is the price hikes in fuel. We used to buy a barrel of diesel for 2,000 riyals and now I'm buying it for 7,000. It is really a crucial problem," complained Khairya.

Another difficulty is recession, when supply is more than demand. Also, she faces difficulties with the Ministry of Agriculture, which didn't provide her with modern irrigation systems.



CCTV

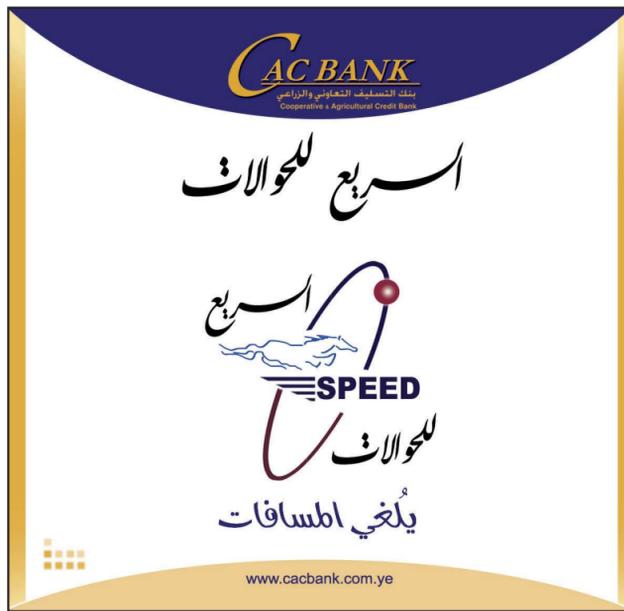
Permeates anything
Observers everything
Doesn't Miss a thing
Panasonic like nothing else

ALFA شركة الفا المحدودة
الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية

Panasonic
ideas for life



Khairya has no modern irrigation means.



CAC BANK
بنك الائتمانات التعاونية والاراضي
Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank

السرعة للمحالات
السرعة
SPEED
للمحالات
يُلغِي المسافات

www.cacbank.com.ye



NOKIA

كما الريشة الملون
Nokia 1325 CDMA

- تصميم نحيف غاية في الاناقة.
- شاشة ملونة، 65,536 لونا.
- استوديو، العاب، مسجل صوت.
- نغمات بوليفونيك MIDI.
- مكبر صوت للتكلم الحر.
- تخزين عناوين اتصال يصل الى 400 اسم.

ريال 15599

777 11 33 55
تسجيل مفسر هذا الرقم
لعميلة سمرات هانف نوكيا

الزبيري: 275106 - القيادة: 561700 - مركز صنعاء التجاري: 448504 - حدة: 513900 - عسبر: 289477
عمن: 02 243321 - الحميدية: 03 22 44 42 - تعز: 250817 - 04 - المكلا: 06 302412



HYUNDAI
HEAVY INDUSTRIES CO., LTD.

Innovation

الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية
Sole agent in Yemen

شركة زبين للتجارة والصناعة
Zubayen Trading & Industry Company

ZTCO

Sana'a (441575/571) - Fax: 441579 - E-mail: zubayen1@y.net.ye , Aden Branch: 02-205060, Fax: 02-205063